

THE
SHIPWRECK
AND
ADVENTURES
OF
MONSIEUR PIERRE VIAUD.

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Frontispiece

See p. 127



J. H. Green del.

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THE
SHIPWRECK
AND
ADVENTURES
OF

MONSIEUR PIERRE VIAUD, *K*

A Native of BOURDEAUX, and Captain of a Ship.

Translated from the FRENCH,

By MRS. GRIFFITH.

Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum. *Virg.*

LONDON,

Printed for T. DAVIES, in Russel-Street, Covent-
Garden. MDCCLXXI.

THE HISTORY OF

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But

THE
FRENCH EDITOR'S
P R E F A C E.

THE Adventures of Monsieur Viaud must interest every sensible and humane mind; the reader must be astonished at the shocking misery he sustained, for the space of eighty-one days, from the 16th of February, 1766, to the 8th of May, following. One can hardly think it possible for a man to have existed so long, under such horrid circumstances, and must be tempted almost to say that the real truth of the facts is not verifimilary.

But every article in this relation is sufficiently attested; Monsieur Viaud is alive, in perfect health, and much esteemed by all who know him. His good character, with his knowledge in maritime affairs, have obtained him the perfect confidence of the most eminent merchants. He has published these Adventures, has suffered his name to be put to them; and the manuscript is intirely in his own hand, except a few alterations I have taken the liberty of making, in some of his words and expressions, in compliance with certain difficult readers, whom the simple, and sometimes coarse stile of a mariner, might perhaps have offended.

But I have carefully preserved all his ideas, his reflections, and his manner of expressing them. I have preferred, to a more critical correction, that sailorly roughness, if I may hazard

zard the phrase, which is not, however, without its merit, and which carries an air of sincerity and frankness in it, that must ever be listened to with pleasure.

Let us leave elegance and delicacy of stile to the writers of Romances, who have much need of some such ornaments to make amends to their readers for the other deficiencies of their compositions. Without some superficial embellishments of this kind, what effect could the improbable and ill contrived adventures of their imaginary heroes ever produce? Boys and girls may be captivated with such sort of fables, before their sense or taste are formed; but men and women scorn to throw away their time on such studies.

The misfortunes of Monsieur Viaud have no occasion for such extrinsic commendations; but you are not to expect

expect the history of his life, in these pages; they contain only an account of his shipwreck, and the perils, wants, and miseries which were the consequence of it.

Monsieur Viaud is a sea-captain, and has been acknowledged in that rank, at the Admiralty-Office of Marennes, in the month of October, 1761.

PRE-

P R E F A C E,

By the TRANSLATOR.

THE work here offered to the public is certainly the most incredible story that ever was authenticated; and yet, that the facts are undoubtedly true every intelligent reader must be sufficiently assured, on the perusal of the whole; for, independent of the opinion which one must be led to conceive of the Writer's veracity, from the ingenuousness of his stile, there are concurrent and corroborating circumstances enough, which the Author had no manner of power over, to evince the truth of his narrative.

No book can be worth reading that does not afford some subject matter for reflection; and, I think, I may venture to say, that the following pages must necessarily inspire the most timid and desponding mind, with a thorough
reliance

reliance upon Providence, from the almost visible interposition of its divine care in the preservation of these three persons' lives; while their amazing deliverance amounts almost to a proof, that patience, resolution, and perseverance, are a match for difficulty and danger, and are sometimes able to combat death itself.

The Original of this Work ran through several editions in France, where it was universally received, not as a romance, but as a series of surprising, interesting, and extraordinary facts, and was bought up with so much avidity, that the gentleman who was so obliging to lend the book to me, could not procure another for himself,

There appear to be some mistakes in the Original, with regard to the rank or station of Monsieur Viaud. He speaks of himself as setting out a first mate only.—He is stiled, in the Certificate, a Sea captain, and also an officer
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in the Blues ; and, in the Editor's Preface, he is said to have been acknowledged or enrolled as a Sea-captain, by the board of admiralty at Marennes, in France.

Now how this same Captain could belong both to the sea and land service, or be an officer in the navy, and a mate of a trading vessel, at the same time, I leave to those who are versed in the French military and marine to reconcile ; and, as to Monsieur Viaud's own expression, where he calls himself *Capitaine en second*, which I have taken the liberty to translate into *First Mate*, perhaps it may signify a superior rank in the French navy, tho' we have no such distinction in ours. But this being a matter relative merely to Monsieur Viaud himself, and having nothing to do with the circumstances of his story, is of no manner of consequence, whether it be cleared up or no.

I have used the same freedom with this Work, as with my former translations,

tations, of throwing in a few reflections, which naturally occurred in some passages of the narrative.—This serves to relieve the dulness of the task—but, at the same time, I have endeavoured to keep as close to the simplicity and frankness of the Author's stile, as the difference of our languages would permit.

If the recital of Monsieur Viaud's Adventures meets with as favourable a reception in this country, as he did himself, from our countrymen in the New World, it will afford me the highest pleasure to have introduced him in an English dress to the Public, to whom I have the honour to be,

A much obliged,

and most obedient servant,

The TRANSLATOR.

THE
ADVENTURES

OF

M. PIERRE VIAND,

YOU have suffered much anxiety about me, my dear friend, of late. You concluded, as well as my whole family, that I had perished in my last voyage; and my not having written to any of my friends, must have confirmed you in this opinion.

My letter, you say, has wiped away those tears that the apprehension of my loss had caused to flow. The

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concern

concern of my friends flatters and softens me ; it serves to console me for my miseries past, and I rejoice in the miraculous preservation of my life, for the sole satisfaction of being beloved.

You complain that I have barely informed you of my shipwreck, without acquainting you with any of the particulars of it ; and having first had your mind rendered easy with regard to my life and health, you desire now a more circumstantial detail of my unhappy adventures.

I can refuse you nothing ; but it is a task that friendship alone could urge me to, as even the recollection of sufferings, like mine, must ever be attended with pain ; I cannot reflect on the miseries I have passed through, without the severest shock, I am myself equally astonished, with the rest of the world, how it was possible for me

me to have survived those wants, those dangers, and those difficulties which I am going to relate ; convinced that nothing parallel has ever been sustained before. Many of them will excite the compassion of so humane an heart as yours, and others will strike your mind with horror. You will see to what an excess of despair my sufferings had reduced me ; and will not be surpris'd, therefore, that they had exhausted my strength, weakened my constitution, and that a situation and circumstances so forlorn as mine, should have sometimes impaired my reason.

You are not to look for order or method in my story. I have lost most of the dates : for how could they have engaged my attention, while I was labouring under the pressure of such complicated ills ! Every succeeding day still added to my sufferings, and the

present distress affected me too strongly to afford me thought sufficient to reflect upon the miseries of the preceding. During the space of two tedious months, my oppressed soul was incapable of receiving any other idea but that of the utmost sorrow; its whole faculties were suspended by the delirium and transports of despair; so that the æras of events have been totally effaced from my memory, and I can recollect but little more, at present, than that I have been miserable.

I shall now relate the circumstances of my misfortunes, just as they happened, without ornament or art; they need none of these heightenings to interest the feelings of my friend: I am but little used to writing; you must not, therefore, expect to meet with any manner of elegance in my stile, in which you will find nothing but the
frank

frank language of a sailor, which, I hope, will be accepted as an apology for its incorrectness.

When I sailed from Bourdeaux, in the month of February 1765, aboard the good ship *L' Aimable Suzette*, commanded by Monsieur St. Cric, under whom I served as mate, I had but little apprehensions of the misfortunes and disasters that fate had prepared to meet me in the New World ; my voyage was prosperous, and I arrived at St. Domingo, without being interrupted by the least disagreeable or untoward accident.

I shall not relate any particulars of myself during my abode in that island, the business of commerce having occupied my whole attention, while I staid there. I then prepared to return to France ; and the day was fixed, when I happened unfortu-

nately to fall sick, about a week before we were to set sail.

I was much afflicted at the thought of being left behind; but, imputing my illness merely to the climate, I persuaded myself that my health would return, on my quitting the island. Upon this presumption I embarked with my friends, but did not receive the relief I had hoped for, as the air of the sea, and the motion of the vessel, increased my disorder so much, that the captain assured me I could not pursue the voyage without the manifest peril of my life; of which the great weakness I became soon sensible of, helped to convince me. Upon which I consented to be put any-where on shore; but, as they could not turn back again to St. Domingo, they landed me at the bay of St. Louis, a small island in view of
6 it,

it, sometime in the month of November. This accident was the source of all my misfortunes.

Some days of rest at St. Louis, with the kind attention of Monsieur Def-clau, an inhabitant of that place, who had given me an apartment in his house, soon restored me to my health again. I waited with impatience for some opportunity of returning to Europe, but there did not one occur, while I remained there.

A long absence from my native country, I knew, must be very prejudicial to my affairs ; which reflection began soon to render me melancholy, and unhappy. My kind host as quickly perceived it, and the friendship with which he had treated me, during my illness, had inspired me with so lively a gratitude, and tender esteem for him, that I could not conceal the

cause of my uneasiness from him. He interested himself in my anxiety, and said every thing in his power to comfort me.

One day he took me aside, and addressed me in the following manner:

" I have reflected (said he) a good deal
 " upon your present situation. The
 " fear of continuing too long without
 " employment, is the principal thing
 " that distresses your mind, for the
 " present; and the hope of getting
 " again into business, makes you wish
 " to be able to get back to France, as
 " soon as may be. But no opportunity
 " has yet offered for that purpose; and,
 " if you will take my advice, you
 " will trouble yourself no farther
 " about that scheme, but try your fortune on your own fund, and I dare
 " say you will be able to treble it.
 " I purpose soon to trade to Louisiana,
 " with certain commodities that I
 " know

" know will produce a good profit
 " there, and shall bring back such
 " goods in exchange, as will here
 " yield me an advantageous return.
 " I am perfectly well acquainted with
 " the nature of this traffic, as I have
 " made several beneficial trips there,
 " already ; therefore, embark yourself
 " and substance with me, and I doubt
 " not but you will, one day, thank me
 " for the lucky advice I now give
 " you."

In the circumstances I then was,
 as I had no alternative to chuse. The
 proposal of M. Desclau I knew to be
 dictated by friendship, and I did not
 hesitate a moment about the accept-
 ance of it ; so that we immediately
 entered into partnership together, in
 proportion to our respective funds.
 He laid in the proper merchandises for
 us both, and served me on that occa-
 sion with the warmest zeal, and most
 exact probity.

We hired a brigantine, called the Tyger, commanded by Monsieur La Couture, and the ship was freighted with all possible dispatch. On the second of January 1766, we embarked, sixteen in number, namely, the captain, his wife, their son, his mate, nine sailors, Monsieur Desclau, a negroe, that I had purchased as a slave, and myself.

We set sail from the road of St. Louis, steering towards the bay of Jeremiah, a little port that lies north of cape Dame Marie; where we staid twenty-four hours. From thence we directed our course towards Little Goave; but this second trip was not as happy as the former. We sustained an adverse wind, for twelve hours, that would have infallibly wrecked us on the Cayes-Mittes †, if the violence of

† Little islands on the west of the Spanish Isle. They make part of the Antilles, or Carribee Islands.

the storm, which abated a little, had not suffered us to make use of our sails to tack about, and get clear of that coast.

Less obstinacy, and more knowledge, on the part of our commander, would have prevented all this danger. I perceived, from this instance, that he was but a poor mariner, and foresaw that our voyage would not terminate without some mishap or other, if the ship was left intirely to his conduct; therefore I resolved to attend closely to all his motions, to prevent, as far as possible, the perils to which his wilfulness and ignorance were likely to expose us.

Our business obliged us to remain three days at Little Goave, and we then set sail again for Louisiana; but the winds continued still adverse, during our whole course. On the 26th of January we had a view of
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the Isle of Pines, toward the west of Cuba, which our captain affirmed to be the cape of St. Anthony. I took the elevation, and soon perceived that he was mistaken ; but I tried in vain to convince him of his error ; for he still continued obstinate, and pursued his course without any manner of precaution, 'till he had drove us among the rocks, where we were hemmed in, when I perceived our situation in the middle of the night, by the light of the moon.

I did not waste time in reproaching his wilfulness ; he began then to find how much in the wrong he had been not to have listened to me before ; and fear, having silenced his self-sufficiency, constrained him to acknowledge it. The danger pressed ; I supplied the office of the mate, who happened to be ill, and confined to his bed : I made them tack about, and
fo

so performed the only operation that could save us from destruction. This succeeded, and we got clear; but, after having been extricated from this peril, we soon found ourselves exposed to a number of others.

Our vessel, from the violent working of the sea, began to spring a leak, in several places, the crew grew impatient, and called on me to take the command of the ship; but as I had only a speculative knowledge of those coasts, which I had never visited before, I was conscious how imperfectly mere theory can supply the deficiency of practice; and in consideration, also, of the mortification that the captain must have suffered upon this occasion, I thought proper to leave him the conduct of his own vessel; and contented myself with watching all his manœuvres, as well for my own safety, as to quiet the minds of the whole

whole crew, who had now lost all manner of confidence in him.

At length we doubled the cape of St. Anthony; but new gusts of wind assailed us again, and opened such large passages for the water, that it was as much as the working of our two pumps, without intermission, could do to prevent our sinking. The wind continued contrary still, the sea grew boisterous, and threatened us with a violent storm. We were not in a condition to ride it out, the terror became general on board, as no one favourable sign appeared in our lamentable situation, to rest a hope upon.

In these shocking circumstances, on the tenth of February, as well as I can now recollect, about seven in the evening, we fell in with a Spanish frigate coming from the Havannah, and carrying the governor and commissioned officers

to take possession of the Mississippi. They hailed us to join company, which we agreed to with joy; for it had been the very request we should have made to them, if they had not prevented us. Nothing can be an higher consolation to sailors, in the midst of dangerous and fatiguing voyages, than to be joined by some other vessel bound to hold the same course. Not that they can be able to afford each other the least manner of assistance, in the violence of a tempest, where each must be too much occupied about their own safety to attend to the relief of the other; but in all circumstances of danger, the peril appears to be lessened, by the greater number it is divided among.

We did not keep company long with the frigate; we lost her in the night; they could use their small sails, which we durst not venture.

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In the morning we missed the vessel, but found that our own had sprung a new leak ; which threw us into the utmost consternation. The whole crew began to turn their eyes upon me, and I immediately advised the lightening the ship. This must be always a sad necessity to the merchants on board, in cases of such distress, who are often obliged to throw goods into the sea, with their own hands, that they had purchased with industry and labour ; and on the return of which they had, perhaps, made speculations that might have doubled their profits. But in such a situation, the preservation of one's life is the first consideration, one attends to that alone, and forgets every other.

The brig was discharged of all the heavy merchandize, in a few minutes ; and I got large lading pails framed of the barrel-staves, in which
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our merchandizes had been packed up, in order to assist the pump to keep the ship from sinking. But all in vain. The water forced itself thro' the chinks of the vessel, more and more, and the strength of our hands on board became less and less; so that, finding it impossible to keep the sea for any length of time, we took the resolution to stand in for the Mobile, which was the only port that the wind would then suffer us to steer to, and which was also the nearest harbour we could make.

We then began to run for the Mobile, but fate opposed our gaining that port; the wind that had been favourable to us at first, shifted against us in about two hours, which obliged us to forego our purpose; and we made several attempts then to reach Panacole, which was rather more distant from us than the other: but that hope failed us

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also,

Probably Pensacola.

also, the winds continuing still to oppose every endeavour we made; so that we were left without resource, in the midst of an enraged ocean, against which we combated at unequal odds, deprived of all prospect of reaching any haven at all, expecting every moment the deep to open its waves, and swallow us up in its bosom.

At length finding it utterly impossible to save either our ship or effects, the preservation even of our lives becoming every moment more difficult to us, we now began to apply our every thought and deed to that single consideration, and agreed to run the vessel aground at the Apalaches, but were not able to achieve even this desperate adventure, and continued still the cruel sport of waves and wind, in a state between life and death, fighting over our misfortunes, certain of our destruction, and yet making indefatigable

gable efforts to extricate ourselves from the perils that surrounded us.

Such was our situation, from the 12th to the 16th of February, when, in the evening, about seven o'clock, we found ourselves striking against a chain of rocks, above two leagues from land; and the shocks were so violent that they opened the stern of the ship, in which condition we remained for half an hour, under the most inexpressible terror and alarms, till the force of repeated surges drove us, at length, over the rocks, and set us afloat again, without our rudder, at the mercy of the waves that assailed us without, and those that forced their way into the vessel, which increased every moment.

Even the little hope that we had till then preserved, failed us all at once — on the instant, the ship re-founded with the lamentable exclama-

tions of the mariners, who interchanged their last adieus, prepared for death, implored the mercy of their Creator, addressed their fervent prayers to Heaven, interrupted sometimes by vows, in the midst of a shocking certainty of never being in a capacity of accomplishing them.

What a spectacle, my dear friend, was here! One must have been a witness of it to form an adequate idea of our distress; and that which I am taking so much pains to trace out to you, falls infinitely short of the reality.

I equally shared the terrors of the crew, and though my despair might have been less apparent, I dare say that it was not less violent than theirs. The extremity of the misfortune, with the certainty of its being inevitable, served to supply me with a sort of seeming firmness; I submitted to the fate that attended me, when it was beyond

yond my power to avoid it; I resigned my life to the Being who had lent it, and preserved presence of mind enough to look upon the last moment with calmness, and to be still active in my endeavours to retard it.

This visible steadiness and resolution happily imposed so far upon the whole crew, that it inspired them, even in the instant of destruction, with such a confidence in me, that rendered them attentive and obedient to all my directions. The wind drove us toward the land, while I continued to steer by the shift of our foremast sail, for want of a rudder, when, by an unexpected miracle, and which we had not even presumed to hope, we arrived, that very night, about nine o'clock, on the east of the island, and within a musket-shot of the shore.

The agitation of the sea would not permit our reaching it, and we pre-

pared to cut up our masts, and bind them together with the cordage, so as to serve us for a float to carry us to land; but while we were at this work, the violence of the wind, and the force of the waves overset the vessel on its larboard-side, which unforeseen motion had like to have been fatal to us all, by casting us into the sea; however, most of us had the fortune to escape this shock, and the few who were thrown out, were lucky enough to recover the ship again, by the assistance we gave them.

The moon, which, 'till this moment, had lent us a feeble light, interrupted only now and then by the intervention of the clouds, now left us suddenly in the dark, and in such circumstances, it was impossible for us to think of reaching land; so that it was resolved to pass the night on the outside of the vessel.

What

What an age of night it was! A deluge of rain fell on us, all the while, the store-house of the waters seemed to have been broke open, the waves rising every instant covered our bark, and rolled their mountains o'er our heads; the thunder roared through the air, and the quick intervals of lightning only served to open to us the horrid prospect of a boundless horizon, and a devouring sea, ready to swallow us up, every moment, which was as quick succeeded by the most dismal darkness.

In such a situation, stretched along on the outside of the hulk, fastening ourselves to every thing we could lay hold of, drenched through with rain, transfixed with cold, spent with the constant efforts we were obliged to exert against the fury of the waves, which endeavoured to wash us off from our hold, we at length per-

ceived the morning's dawn, only to afford us a clearer view of the dangers we had passed, and those we had yet to encounter.

This prospect of our situation appeared still more tremendous; we perceived, indeed, that we were not far from land, but we saw that it was impossible for us to reach it. The raging of the sea would have daunted the stoutest and most expert swimmers; for the waves rolled with such fury, that whoever had delivered himself over to them, must have run the risk of being launched back again into the main ocean, or dashed to pieces against the ship, or the shore.

At this sight and reflection the whole crew was seized with the extremity of despair, their groans and exclamations redoubled, and were repeated with such strength and fervency, that they were to be heard amidst the raging of
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the winds, the roaring of the thunder, and the dashing of the waves, which, all joined together, augmented the horror of the sound.

Several hours passed thus, without any change in our dismal situation, when one of the sailors, a Dutchman, and who had been all that day the loudest in his complaints and cries, and who had, from the first appearance of danger, shewn himself the most faint-hearted of the crew, ceased his lamentations, on the sudden; and, after keeping silence for some minutes, raised up his head and voice with an extraordinary emotion, "What are we waiting
 " for? (cried he out, with the resolution
 " of despair.) Death surrounds us on
 " all sides:—he is just raising his arm
 " against us; let us anticipate him,
 " and hasten the blow he is so slow to
 " strike:—let us meet him in the deep;
 " perhaps if we face him, he may fly
 " from

"from us ; the land is in view ; it may
"not be utterly impossible to reach it.
"I'll make the attempt, and if I fail,
"I but cast away a few hours of my
"life, and cut off as many from my
"sufferings."

At these words he plunged into the sea, and many others, animated by his example, would have followed him, if I had not with the utmost difficulty, restrained them. I pointed to their comrades rolling about in the waves, combating in vain against them, hurried forward now almost to touch the shore, then washed back into the deep; disappearing for some minutes, and appearing again only to be seen dashed against the rocks. This shocking object struck them with so much horror, that it abated the rashness of their attempt to follow him.

The day was now near closing, we reflected with terror on the last night, and
trembled

trembled before-hand at that which was to come. The masts and cordage we had so happily collected together for a raft, the day before, was carried off by the waves, and deprived us of the hope of saving ourselves, even by so poor a shift as this. We had a wretched boat, indeed, but in no sort of condition to weather even the short passage that appeared to lye between us and the land. We had several times examined it, with this view, and had as often condemned it, as unfit for service.

However, three of our sailors, either more brave or desperate than the rest, resolved to take their chance in this rotten sieve, together. They launched it privately into the sea, without communicating their design to any one else of the crew, and the first knowledge we had of it, was from seeing them, at some distance from us, in such a situation

tuation as made us give them over for lost. We were witnesses, for some time, of their struggles, of the pains they laboured with, and the frequent risks they ran of being swallowed up by the waves, till at last we saw them, contrary to all hope and probability, arrive safe on shore.

How we envied their good fortune ! We then, all of us, regretted that we had not made the same desperate experiment, and each of us reproached ourselves for not having foreseen their design. If ever the beholding an happy person was ungrateful to the miserable, it was so then. The signs they made to us, with their extravagant emotions of joy, were but aggravations of our misfortune.

Such a sentiment, I doubt not, must appear horrible to you, as it really seems to shock humanity ; yet this detestable sensation is, nevertheless, among
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the seeds of nature. It disgraces it, I must confess ; but it is certainly true, notwithstanding. And let those who condemn the principle, refrain from reflecting on us as monsters, 'till they may be unfortunately placed themselves in such a situation, as may give them a right to judge of our feelings on that occasion.

Night now deprived us of the sight of our happy comrades, and being constrained to remain still in the same situation, the comparison between their fate and ours, but augmented our misery ; for our sufferings seemed to increase, as divided among a lesser number. This night was even more terrible to us, than the former ; the fatigue was the same, and the exhausted state we had been reduced to, by our past labour, left us hardly power to sustain the present.

Ever

Ever since our vessel had been over-
 set, we had not been able to get at the
 inside of her; for we dare not venture
 to open any part of her deck, for fear
 of exposing a new passage to the waves,
 to rush in and burst her asunder, so as
 as to deprive us even of that little stay
 from destruction. We remained, con-
 sequently, all this while, without meat
 or drink to recruit our strength, or
 support our spirits; and without sleep,
 also, to forget our miseries, for the
 shortest moment. Fate seemed to have
 emptied its quiver of the sharpest ar-
 rows against us, and never had death
 appeared with so horrid an aspect to
 wretches, before.

The vessel being stranded among a
 parcel of rocks, some fathoms under
 water, was dashed against them all the
 while by the force of the waves, so
 violently, that we felt her whole frame
 shaken so sensibly, that we expected

every minute to have her open and separate, plank by plank, and reduce us to the necessity of the same experiment, that our first adventurer had so unsuccessfully attempted, before.

The next morning, the 18th of February, we beheld the sun rise, which was a sight we had absolutely despaired of, when we saw it setting, and when death, by putting an end to our calamities, would certainly have been a blessing. But the care of life is the strongest passion in the human breast; it continues with us to the last moment of existence; the miseries one feels may weaken, perhaps, but rarely extinguish it.

Our first emotion, upon finding ourselves still clinging fast to the side of our vessel, was to offer up our thanksgivings to Heaven, for having still preserved us alive, even in such a deplorable situation, and to raise up

our

our suppliant hands in petition to Providence to complete its miracle, by affording us some unforeseen means of escaping to the shore.

There never was, sure, a more fervent prayer. Heaven, at length, seemed to look down with compassion, on our miseries and danger. The wind began to abate, and the various agitation of the sea subsided a little, but only to present another object of commiseration and anxiety to our view, of the same kind, but not so great a one as that on the day before.

One of our sailors, a remarkable good swimmer, having for some time contemplated the distance to the shore, at length resolved with himself to attempt the passage. "I will try to rejoin
 " my friends on the other side (said he),
 " and we will endeavour to caulk
 " and staunch the boat, and perhaps
 " we may be happy enough to render
 " it

" it sufficiently capable of taking as
 " many trips backward and forward
 " as may serve to land the remainder
 " of us upon terra firma, at last.

" This, at least, is the only resource
 " that misfortune has left in our
 " power to make trial of, and it
 " affords no time for hesitation. Our
 " strength is failing us every mo-
 " ment; let us not wait till it is quite
 " exhausted, but make one effort more
 " with what remains, to extricate our-
 " selves from so horrid and forlorn a
 " situation."

We applauded his proposal, and en-
 couraged him as much as was in our
 power to the putting his design in ex-
 ecution, as the only shift that was left
 us to make experiment of, for our lives.
 We gave him all our handkerchiefs,
 and what line we could get at, to serve
 instead of oakum, towards refitting the

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boat,

boat, which he fastened about his waist, and instantly plunged into the sea.

We saw him several times on the point of perishing; our anxious eyes watched narrowly for him; he was our last resource, our sole deliverer; we shared the risks he ran, our fate depended on his; we encouraged him by our voice and gesture; we laboured, I may say, along with him; we struggled with every obstacle that opposed him; our imaginations, our ardent supplications for his delivery, transported us into his place; we felt as he did, desponded at his difficulties, and triumphed at his successes

In fine, after having an hundred times sustained alternate hopes and fears, we had the extasy, at length, to see him reach the shore, after infinite labours and dangers. We fell immediately on our knees to thank Heaven
for

for his escape, and warm beams of joy and hope enlivened and fortified our hearts.

It was now about seven o' clock, in the morning; we waited impatiently the moment of our deliverance; we never turned our eyes an instant from the coast; we perceived the four failors all busy about the boat, and we seconded their labours by our prayers. However, they seemed to proceed but slowly in their work, and we trembled often with fear, lest their pains might be ineffectual.

At length, about three o'clock in the afternoon, their operations ceased, and we saw the boat launched into the sea. It approached our vessel. How is it possible to describe the transport of our crew? It was expressed by shrieks, by most delicious tears, and mutual embraces, felicitating one another.

This extasy, this sympathy, was quickly over, and took another turn when it came to the point of embarking. The boat was but small; it could not contain above a third part of our number; we could not attempt to embark all at once, without sinking it. Every one was sensible of the difficulty, but no one would consent to wait for a second passage; the fear of some accident happening to prevent a return, and the terror of lying another night exposed on the hulk, made every one obstinate for being taken in, the first.

Those who had brought the boat to us called out to me, insisting that I should take advantage of this first opportunity, as they feared it would not be in their power to make two returns more; which expression being heard by the rest, excited new outcries, and
desperate

desperate resolves in each, to rush into the skiff, all at once.

I raised my voice above the rest, and intreated silence for a moment. " Your
 " clamours, your violences (said I)
 " but hurt yourselves, and retard your
 " own safety. We are all lost, if you
 " persist in going all together. Attend
 " to reason, obey her dictates, and hope.
 " We are equally involved in the same
 " perils; preferences would be unjust
 " in such circumstances, misfortune
 " has abolished all distinction; let us
 " then determine the first passengers by
 " lot; let us submit our fate to this im-
 " partial decision; and, to convince
 " those who may be left behind, that
 " hope remains still with me, I will stay
 " with them myself, and promise to
 " be the last person that shall quit the
 " vessel."

This resolution surprised and silenced them; they consented to the proposition,

position, and one of the sailors happening to have a parcel of cards in his pocket, they were made use of to determine the chances. Of the eleven of us that were sticking to the vessel, four were taken in, and were delivered safe on land by the other four, who had navigated the boat, and who returned immediately to carry away its other complement of four more.

While they were coming toward us, I happened to perceive the stern of our vessel so loosened by the shock of the waves, that, by the help of Monsieur Desclau and my negroe, I separated it entirely. This wreck appeared to me as good as a canoe, to carry us ashore; Monsieur Desclau being of the same opinion, we ventured upon it directly, accompanied by the negroe, when the other four took boat, and happily arrived at the same point of land, a short time after them.

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The inexpressible transport we were sensible of, upon being thus far safely delivered, can only be imagined, as well as the grateful and fervent devotion with which we offered up our loudest hymns to the Creator, with the happiness we felt in reposing our harrassed limbs on a firm spot, without apprehending its failing under us, every moment!

The oysters that we happily found on the coast furnished us with a truly delicious repast; the total privation of food we had sustained for so long before, gave them a peculiar relish. We rejoiced in our present situation, and passed a peaceable night in a profound sleep, uninterrupted by disagreeable ideas about our further deliverance, which served to recruit our strength and spirits. The next day we awoke also with the same satis-

faction ; but it was not of a long continuance.

Our mate had fallen sick, a few days after we had set sail, and the fatigue of the voyage, together with the constant alarms and terrors we had so long endured, had so much increased his illness, that it was with extreme difficulty he could quit his bed, when the vessel struck aground ; and I am still more astonished how he was able to get upon the outside of the ship, when she overfet.

The length of time we lay in this sad situation, had almost exhausted his strength ; and yet, when the lots were drawn, he happened to be one of the first passengers, and contrived to get into the boat without any manner of assistance. But the fear that had lent him such powers, for the instant, rendered him weaker when the danger was over. He was the only one
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of us who found no rest at land ; but he suffered without complaining, as his humanity was tender of disturbing our repose.

When the day-light had roused us from the arms of sleep, I went to enquire how he was, and found him approaching to his last moments. I called upon the rest of our companions to try what help they could afford ; but how could any of us assist him, in such a situation and circumstances !

“ My hour is come (said he), I thank
 “ Heaven, for preserving my life long
 “ enough to see you all, at present, in
 “ a place of safety ; my anxiety for
 “ your deliverance will not now attend
 “ me to the grave. O, my friends !
 “ may you be able to profit farther of
 “ this kindness of Providence. You are
 “ not perhaps, at the end of your difficulties, yet ; though I flatter myself
 “ that you have already passed the heaviest

“vict of them ; but I shall share no
 “more of them with you. Pray for
 “me. I expire.” He began to rave
 soon after these words, and drew his
 last breath before us.

His loss cost us many tears, suspended the joy of our delivery, and afforded us leisure for some melancholy reflections. We were then resting on a desert spot of land, surrounded by the sea ; some continent appeared in view, at no great distance, indeed ; but how to reach it ! Such thoughts added to our affliction, while we were paying the last duty to our departed friend, whom we interred in his cloaths, just as he died, having contrived with extreme labour to dig a grave for him, in the sand. His name was *Dutronche*.

After the performance of this pious, but mournful office, we walked along the shore, and had the fortune to see some of our trunks, several casks of
tafia,

tafia, a sort of American liquor, and many bales of merchandize, thrown by the tide upon the coast, and which had arrived there before us.

But none of these goods, except the liquor, appeared to be of the least consequence to us. We should have preferred a few biscuit, fire-arms to defend, or provide us with food ; but more immediately a good fire to have dried our cloaths, and warmed our limbs, quite numbed with cold and wet, to all the rest.

This last distress being now our most pressing evil, made us apply our whole thoughts and diligence to remedy it. We tried the method said to be used by the savages, of kindling a fire, by rubbing two sticks quick and hard against each other ; but, whether thro' awkwardness, or some other impediment, the experiment failed us, and we gave over all further projects of the kind.

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The sea, by this time, having become almost calm, I formed a resolution of going aboard our vessel, by means of the shattered boat that had saved us so successfully before. If it should fail me, in the passage, said I to myself, the distance is not so great, but that I shall be able to swim back again, while the wind continues its present flumber.

Upon this reflection, I applied to two of the sailors, that I knew to be good swimmers, to go along with me; but the proposition made them shudder. They had not so soon forgot their sufferings on the side of the vessel; and they trembled at the idea of their being obliged to renew them, if the storm should happen to rise again, before they could return.

I did not press them further, they might have been useless to me; for even should they have ventured, with

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so much dread about them, and terrified at the smallest wave, instead of affording me assistance, they might rather have increased my difficulties, and embarrassed the enterprize I had determined to adventure upon.

The very idea of that unlucky ship had filled the minds of the whole crew with so much horror, that many of them endeavoured to dissuade me from my purpose. I chid them for their panic, and ran into the boat with precipitation, without listening to any more of their remonstrances, lest their united persuasions might have weakened my resolution.

I have observed, upon several occasions in life, how much the example of the many is apt to influence the individual. The bravest soldier will become timorous, on a party with poltroons,; and a coward has often been inspired with the courage of his companions.

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I arrived safe at the ship, where the sea, having subsided after the storm, had left some part of the deck uncovered. I moored the boat, and got into the vessel, with some difficulty. It was deep in water, and I was obliged sometimes to wade up to my breast. I could not easily find the articles I was in quest of; for every thing had been overturned, and drove out of its place, by the many shocks the vessel had undergone during the storm.

I had the good fortune, however, to lay my hands on a small barrel of gunpowder, about twenty-five pounds weight. It happened to lye in a place above the water; besides, the cask was staunch enough to have kept the powder dry, as it had been before used for brandy, and afterwards applied to this purpose by Monsieur la Couture, when he was fitting out for this unhappy voyage. I recovered also six fusils,

filis, a parcel of Indian handkerchiefs, several blankets, a sack, with between thirty and forty pounds weight of biscuit, and two hatchets, which was all that I was able to carry away.

I returned to the island with my little cargo, and was received with a general shout of joy. The first thing I did, was to get a parcel of dry wood, of which there was sufficient plenty on the coast, and had a large fire kindled; which was a comfortable relief to our little party: with this we employed ourselves in drying the cloaths we had on us, with those that had taken wet in our portmanteaus, and the blankets that I had just brought away from the ship.

Then I ordered some of the sailors to bring some fresh water from a spring in order to steep our biscuit in, which had been drenched in the sea.

This water was extremely brackish ; but as it was not bitter, we corrected it with some of the *tafia*, and rested satisfied with this improvement, because we happened to be ignorant that there was any better to be had, in the island ; though I have since learned that it abounds with fresh rivers and clear springs.

While some of us were employed in curing the biscuit, and spreading them abroad to dry, others occupied themselves in cleaning the arms, and preparing them for use, which was soon performed. I happened luckily to have some pounds of small shot in my cloak-bag, which I provided two of our best marksmen with some of, along with a proper portion of gun-powder, who returned to us, in about an hour, with half a dozen wild-fowl, which abound on that coast.

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We had them dressed for supper, and they supplied us with an excellent meal. We then passed the night round about our fire, wrapped up in our dry cloathing: we felt ourselves warm and comfortable; and any other accommodation seemed trifling, in comparison with this circumstance.

The next day, the 20th of February, we began to consider what we had farther to provide for. The change from bad to better, with the several immediately necessary occupations of the day before, had so engrossed our whole attention, that we had not leisure to reflect on what was hereafter to become of us. We had esteemed ourselves happy when we looked back upon our miraculous escape; but ceased to be so when we looked forward to our future safety. We were cast upon a desert island: we perceived no beaten path to conduct us to any inhabited spot: we

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had

had large rivers to cross, and great forests to pass through, where we must run the hazard of losing our way, every step. Wild beasts were to be apprehended, and the meeting with savages, perhaps, not less dangerous than they; nay we could not be certain but that there might be both of these enemies in the very island we then stood upon.

We knew that the inhabitants of the Apalachian coast forsake the villages, during the winter-season, and betake themselves to the neighbouring islands, where they follow the chase, till about the beginning of April, when they return to the continent again, laden with the skins of wild animals they have hunted down, which they traffic with the Europeans for arms, ammunition, and brandy.

It might possibly happen that we should be surpris'd by a troop of those savages, at a time we were not prepared

ed for them; they would certainly put us to death, in order to rob us of what effects, though ever so inconsiderable, we might be possessed of: we were afraid also that the casks of *tassa*, that were lying on the coast, might fall into their hands, and, loving that liquor, they might get drunk with it, and meeting with us in such a condition, when it would be impossible to get them to listen to reason, might massacre us all, without remorse, out of mere stupid brutality. This latter peril, however, we took care to prevent, immediately, by staving all the casks, except three, which we hid in a wood, and buried under the sand.

We remained, this whole day, and all the next, under such inquietudes and apprehensions as such reflections must naturally have inspired. We started at the least noise, in dread of an attack: we dared not separate from

one another, for a moment; day and night we slept by turns, and placed centinels, fronting the four points of the compass, to guard against a surprize; and some of us who distrust-ed the vigilance of those who were on duty, lost their own rest, to watch with them. In fine, there never was so small a number of persons got together oppressed with so many misfortunes and fears.

The 22d of February, in the morning, our whole troop, fatigued with the vigils of the night, happened to fall altogether into a profound sleep, when we were suddenly roused by a sailor, who happened to be more watchful than the rest, and cried out, "Awake! Behold the savages! We are lost!" Every one started up, at the word; and without consulting any other method of safety, were beginning to fly into the woods; but I prevailed on them

them to stand their ground, by desiring them to look at the enemy they were afraid of, and to reckon their number, which was only five; two men and three women, armed each with a fusil *. “What are you afraid of?” (said I.) Is such a party as that so formidable to you? How much inferior is it to ours. We are in a state to dictate to them, if they should have come upon us with any hostile intentions. Let us wait their approach; for they may to the last degree be useful to us, by extricating us out of our present difficulties.”

My companions were struck with shame at their cowardice, and sat them-

* The passage in French is, “Tous armés d’un fusil, & d’un *casse-tête* ;” but this last expression I am at a loss to guess the meaning of, in this place. It signifies *heady wine*, or any difficult study or business that puzzles or perplexes the mind. Were I to hazard a conjecture, I should translate it a *bludgeon*, a good *casse-tête*, to break the head.

selves calmly down, by the fire-side, till
 the savages came up to us, whom we
 received with every token of friendship
 we could think of, which was likewise
 returned on their part. We pre-
 sented them with some presents out of
 our trunks; and gave them also some
 cups of *tafia*, which they seemed to re-
 lish extremely. He who seemed to
 command the rest, spoke to us in bad
 Spanish; and one of our sailors that
 understood the language, conversed
 with him, and served as an interpreter
 between us.

We learned from the savage, that his
 name was Antonio, and that he was a
 native of St. Mark's, in the Apalachian
 mountains. He had come with his fami-
 ly to pass the winter in an island about
 three leagues from the one we were
 in: Some pieces of our wreck, thrown
 upon the coast where he was, had
 prompted him to rove about, in search
 of

of more. His family, then with him, consisted of his mother, sister, wife, and nephew.

We asked him if he would take the charge of conducting us to St. Mark's, on assurance of his being sufficiently recompensed for his trouble. He stepped aside, upon this proposal, and conferred, for near an hour, with his family, about it, casting an eye, every now and then, to our arms, our portmanteaus, our blankets, and other commodities.

These appearances alarmed us: we began to suspect our guide; but the open countenance with which he returned to us, and the offer he made to come back to convoy us, without delay, dispelled our doubts and apprehensions. He told us that St. Mark was not above ten leagues off; but in this he either deceived us, or was himself mistaken; for it was above

twenty-six. But this we were ignorant of, at that time; for had we not, this first breach of truth might have put us more on our guard.

Antonio retired with our presents; and, as he promised to return to us the next day with his canoe, three of our sailors made no difficulty of going along with him. He kept his word, and brought us a present of a bustard, and half a roe-buck. As it was late before we could set out, we deferred our progress, till the day following.

On the 24th we freighted his bark with what part of our effects we could well carry with us, and departed only six of us, at this time; because the canoe could not take in more at once. The whole crew insisted upon my being among the first passengers, being well assured, as they said, that I should not neglect those who might
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be left behind, but would compel the savage to return for them; if he should happen to be refractory.

Antonio landed us in the other island, where we met our three companions, who had left us two days before. My first attention on our arrival was paid to the confidence reposed in me by five of our crew who had been left behind in Dog-Island. I intreated our host to return instantly for them and the rest of our effects; but he refused to go upon this errand so immediately, being willing, as he said to me, first to set us down, in some place of safety, on *terra firma*, as they call the continent. This I most strenuously opposed, his obstinacy gave me reason to suspect his intentions; and I prevailed on him, at last, to comply with my request, after two intestine days solicitation, promises, and threats.

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On the 28th we were all brought together again, which was a vast consolation to us all; while we were asunder, we felt as if a limb was wanting; we considered one another as brothers; we mutually assisted and supported each other; the distinction between captain and sailor was levelled to friends and equals. Nothing is so strong as the ties made by misfortune! We were but fourteen now, and considered ourselves as of one family.

As soon as we had been all collected together, I summoned the savage to perform his promise, and conduct us to some place of safety, on the *terra firma*; but the favourable disposition he had at first shewn towards being serviceable to us, appeared now to be slackened; he seemed to fly from our solicitations; all the day was spent in hunting, and he returned

turned not to his hut, at night, which he had intirely surrendered to our possession.

We were much at a loss to know what to conjecture about his behaviour. Did he watch for an opportunity to strip us of all our effects, and abscond into the woods? Such a suspicion excited us to so much vigilance, that we thought it impossible for him to take advantage of us.

Some of our companions, wearied at last with such an anxious and uncertain state of our affairs, proposed methods of violence, that would probably have rescued us from many hardships and misfortunes, since; their scheme was to slay the five savages, and seize their canoe, to transport us to the Apalaches, without further delay.

But I dissuaded them from so desperate a purpose, by representing the danger of its consequences. It was
much

much to be apprehended that the other savages of their nation might soon come to the knowledge of their deaths, and revenge themselves upon us in the same manner. None of us were acquainted with these islands, seas, or harbours; then how should we be able to steer with safety to the terra firma? Chance, perhaps, might possibly conduct us thither; but what a madness to embark our lives on the sole hope of such an escape?

We had remained five days in this island, subsisting on what fish and fowl we could provide ourselves with, and husbanding our biscuit with the closest oeconomy, by stinting ourselves to an ounce a day. At last, by lying on the watch for Antonio, we happened to intercept him, and by bribes and intreaties prevailed on him to carry us over to the continent.

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On the 5th day of March we divided our little party, once more, loaded the canoe with the most considerable share of our effects, and embarked, to the number of six ; which was composed of Monsieur la Couture, his wife, his son, about fifteen years of age, who, by a surprizing miracle had, as well as his mother, been enabled to survive all our hardships and fatigues, Monsieur Desclau, myself, and the negro.

Antonio and his wife attended us in the passage, and left the three other savages behind them, with our eight sailors ; from whom we did not part, without shedding many tears, on each side. We were all of us sensible of a certain oppression of heart, and a sort of præsentiment, which seemed to forebode our never meeting again.

This expedition, so ardently desired, and engaged in, after so much difficulty

ficulty, happened to be attended with more dismal consequences, even than our shipwreck. We had undergone many severe misfortunes, but worse disasters lay still in wait for us. It is in the following part of my story that you will find I had occasion to exert the utmost efforts of my fortitude; which, however, failed me often on the trial. You will meet with, in these subsequent memoirs, such incredible misfortunes, and circumstances so shocking, that the sole recollection of them makes me tremble still, even while I am but barely relating them.

Antonio had assured us, that our voyage would be completed in about two days; we should, therefore, have only laid in provisions sufficient merely to have served us during the passage, if the late experience of former difficulties and disappointments had not hinted the precaution of taking on board a

subſiſtence for at leaſt double the time. It conſiſted of between fix or ſeven pounds of biſcuit, with ſome quarters of broiled bear, and roe-buck.

Such a precaution was prudent, but not ſufficient; for our paſſage was much longer than we had been made to imagine. Antonio, after about three leagues ſailing, ſtopt at an iſland, where he obliged us to ſtay, till the next day, when he did not make greater expedition than before. I took notice that, inſtead of making towards the continent, he carried us from one iſland to another, without any manner of purpoſe, that we could conceive. This extraordinary manner of proceeding rendered me extremely uneaſy, and augmented the diſtruſt which his former conduct had inſpired me with.

Seven days were loitered away, in theſe trips, our proviſions were exhausted, and we had nothing to ſubſiſt

list on, except a few oysters that we met with on some of the coasts, and two or three wild fowls, that the savages afforded us, now and then. Nor were we, after all, brought even within a view of the continent; though, overpowered with fatigue, weakened by the bad and scanty sustenance we had been able to provide ourselves with, and become now so extremely feeble, that we were hardly able to row the boat, in turns.

The miserable situation to which we were at last reduced, made such an impression on my mind, as I had never felt before. My patience being quite exhausted, by the continuance of his perverseness, I became seized with such a fit of rage and violence as was not any part of my usual character. Antonio appeared plainly to be a treacherous villain, who meant to let us perish, piece-meal; and self-defence
justi-

justified any measure that might be necessary towards extricating us from our danger. These reflections agitated my mind, in the middle of the night; I took Monsieur Desclau and La Couture apart, to consult with, on this emergency.

It surprized me, even then, how I could be capable of arguing so warmly for the putting of Antonio to death, when it was I alone who had stood forth in his defence, on a former occasion, against our whole crew. I am not naturally cruel, but misfortunes had rendered me outrageous enough, at that instant, both to purpose and commit a murder. The situation I was in must plead my excuse, and the event has since justified my apprehensions and resolve.

Monsieur Desclau and La Couture judged differently of this affair; they repeated to me the same arguments I

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had before made use of, when I opposed the crew upon the very same occasion. I was not convinced, but complied, however, with their remonstrances, and passed the remainder of the night without being able to frame any other scheme for our preservation.

The next day, the 12th of March, we sailed again, little more than two leagues, and landed, as usual, on some other island; where, overcome with misery and fatigue, and requiring rest, we each of us wrapped ourselves up in our blankets, as usual, and lay down before a large fire. We gave ourselves up to sleep, with the most perfect acquiescence, as the time we passed in forgetting our existence, was certainly so many anxious moments substracted from our miseries.

My slumber was but short, my inquietudes rendered me wretched, and afforded me but a very broken rest, from

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the dismal apprehensions which presented themselves to my imagination ; I will not carry it so far as to say that they amounted to forebodings, as this, perhaps, may be one of the superstitions that the more enlightened philosophy has abolished, among other prejudices of the same kind. I pretend not therefore to insist upon this notion here, I speak only of what I have myself experienced.

I imagined, while I was in a doze, that I was standing on the strand, and perceived the savage and his wife sailing away in his canoe : my mind was so strongly impressed by this vision, that I took it for a real fact which had been just transacted before my eyes, and consequently sent forth, in my sleep, so piercing an exclamation as roused all my companions, who also awakened me by call-

ing out to know what new alarm had, just at that moment, affected me.

I told them what it was; they made a jest of my terrors; and their reasoning and raillery, with my being too far from the coast to have seen the transaction, if it had been one, soon brought me to conclude that I had been only dreaming; and I then join'd with the rest, to laugh at my own weakness.

Upon this they all compos'd themselves to sleep again, and I fell also into a profound slumber, in which I continued 'till about midnight, when I was startled out of it, as before, by the very same idea I have just related to you. My apprehensions became now so strong, that I could not avoid going immediately down to the shore, either to quiet or confirm my fears.

I arose alone, without disturbing any one, and walked away, with feeble

ble and staggering steps, to the sea-side. The sky was clear, and the moon shone bright enough to afford me a distinct view of the whole coast. I looked for the canoe, but found it not; I searched every cranny for it, but in vain. I called to the savage several times, but received no answer, except from my companions, who, awakened by my voice, came all running towards me.

There was no occasion to inform them of our misfortune; they appeared frantic with despair, and lamented I most bitterly at having restrained my hand from preventing this act of perfidy, the evening before. But how useless are reflections or regrets, after the evil is become irreparable!

Behold us now a second time left on a desert island, without resource, without food, and without arms to procure subsistence. We had

no cloaths, except what were on our backs, and our blankets. Our fusils and all our other effects had been stowed aboard the boat. Even our swords, which we had usually worn, as defence against the wild beasts and savages we had been in constant dread of, had been carelessly left behind us, the day before. In fine, we remained without any sort of weapon, offensive or defensive, among us all, except a blunt knife that I happened to have in my pocket.

The island produced neither root or fruit, of any kind, to sustain us; nor did that shore afford either oysters, or any other sort of shell-fish. What a shocking situation! What hope, what possibility, even was left us now! And what could avail the noblest fortitude in such circumstances of despair?

As soon as the day appeared, we rolled our blankets about us, now
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the only goods or effects we possessed in the world, and returned to the strand, hoping to find some sort of fish there to satisfy our hunger. Our searches were in vain; we walked for near two hours, about the land, without discovering any thing that could serve us for food, or even a drop of fresh water to drink.

We came, at length, to the end of this barren island, from whence we could see another, that was separated from ours by a strait, about half a quarter of a league over; we had passed a day and a night there before, with the savage, and remembered that it had good water, and excellent shell-fish, on its coast. How much did we regret that we had not been deserted on that spot, instead of where we now were; we could have at least subsisted there. This reflection increased our misery; we sat down on the sand, regarding

with a greedy eye the island before us, and deploring the sterility of our own.

Pressed by hunger, we deliberated whether we ought not to hazard the crossing that arm of the sea which divided the two islands; we must expect death if we did not attempt it; our choice was made without hesitation; we resolved to venture, but, on going to execute our scheme, we were stopped by a difficulty, we had not yet thought of.

Madame la Couture and her son were with us, and how could they follow us? This passage was not dreadful to men accustomed to the water; but a woman, and so young a lad, could not undertake it without danger. Already we saw Monsieur la Couture uneasy, measuring the channel with his eyes, and thinking on the means to conduct with safety persons

sons so dear to him. Humanity would not permit us to leave them behind, so we resolved to relieve each other, successively, in supporting them both, whilst my negro, who was the lowest of the company, marched first, to sound the bottom, and point out to us where we might best attempt to ford it.

I took the hand of Madame la Couture, Mr. Desclau took that of the young man; Mr. la Couture made two parcels of part of our cloaths, that we had put off, placed one on the head of my slave, and carried the other himself. Thus we set out, at last—fortunately the bottom was tolerably firm and even; the water, in the deepest part, came no higher than our stomachs: we marched on slowly, and reached the opposite shore, at length, in safety. Madame la Couture, during this dangerous passage, shewed

shewed a courage and strength that surprised me ; she preserved the same in every situation ; nor could it be said that her company was either useless, or troublesome to us. We happily arrived at this island, where we hoped to find some nourishment ; but experienced a new distress that was near being fatal to us—we had been an hour and a half in the water, and an extreme coldness seized us on quitting it. To make a fire, either to dry or warm us, was now rendered impossible, as there was not a flint to be found, in this, or any other of these isles that we had wandered over.

Though we were already almost spent with fatigue and famine, exercise was our only resource ; we continued, therefore, to walk for several hours, searching for oysters, which we devoured as fast as we could find them. After having thus satisfied

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fied the impatient call of hunger, we had the precaution to gather a few, as a reserve ; and the sun casting now a considerable heat, served to dry our wet cloaths, and permitted us to rest, for some time. The air was extremely sharp, during the night, and often obliged us to rise and walk, to prevent its dangerous effects.

The next day, a wind at south south-east increased the heat of the sun ; we renewed our search after shell-fish, along the beach, but the tide was not out, and there was no fish to be come at ; so that we were forced to content ourselves with the small provision that we had laid by, the preceding evening. We had afterwards occasion to observe, that the tide never ebbed, while the southerly winds continued. We acquired this knowledge, at our own expence, as by this means we were frequently in want of food. We sought
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amongst the herbs and roots for a supply, but could discover nothing eatable, except some wild sorrel.

I will not enter into a tedious detail of all that past in the first ten days after Antonio had abandoned us; we suffered exceedingly from cold by night, and not seldom from famine; we past whole days in bewailing our misfortunes, and in prayer to the Almighty, that he would deign to put an end to them: in fine, our pains, our sorrows, and our employments, could not afford sufficient variety for further description.

We had now reached the 22d of March, as nearly as we could guess, when, in the midst of our usual lamentations, and anxious meditations on the means of quitting our wretched abode, we recollected, that in a neighbouring island, which we had happened to touch at with the vile Indian, there lay on the shore

shore the remains of an old canoe, which we imagined might be possible for us to repair well enough to be able to carry us over to the continent.

This flattering idea was readily embraced; we delivered ourselves up to joy, as if we were already certain of realizing our wishes. The unfortunate willingly yield to the slightest promises of hope; their imaginations press forward to the end of their sufferings; to this great object all their reasonings tend, and they either overlook, or dare not examine, the obstacles that oppose their expectation, lest they should dispel that happy delusion which remains their sole comfort.

Monfieur Desclau Monfieur la Couture, and I consulted together about the means of getting to the place where this old shattered boat lay. We made an observation to the eastward, as well

as we could, and, computing how far distant we then were from that coast, we concluded it to be between four and five leagues off. In reality we were not deceived: but we had many difficulties to encounter in this expedition; for there were several rivers, and an arm of the sea, to cross. However, these obstacles did not discourage us; we determined to attempt the enterprise, at least, upon this persuasion, that resolution and perseverance are a match for any undertaking, which is not impossible in nature.

We resolved to set out, the same day, and not to take Madame la Couture, or her son, with us, as they would only have retarded our design; neither could they have supported, like us, the labour and fatigue of it: besides, it was probable that the waters we had to pass, might be so deep, as to oblige us to swim,

which they were incapable of doing. Madame la Couture, convinced by these reasons, consented to wait our return, with her son: I left my negro behind, to attend them, and we departed after promising to return, either with or without the canoe, as soon as possible.

The project we had now undertaken, was our last hope and resource; we talked of it during our journey, as of a most probable scheme. This re-animated our spirits, recruited our strength, and rendered the way less tedious.

In every state of life, and in all the circumstances of it, mankind indulge themselves in chimeras, and often quit substances for shadows. But it is only to the wretched that such illusions become a real blessing: whilst their imaginations are amused, their sorrows are relieved, and for a time forgotten. Between three and four hours walking

ing brought us to the utmost extremity of our land, without being forced to pass any river larger than what we should term a brook, in Europe ; but now a sort of canal, about a quarter of a league broad, presented itself to our view, and arrested our course.

We must hazard the crossing this arm of the sea, or resign our hopes. This reflection sustained our resolution ; and an hour's rest recovered us a little ; we needed all our strength, as we were ignorant whether this water was everywhere fordable, and trembled lest the part which might have required our swimming, should exceed the small degree of force we might then be left possessed of. This idea held us for some time in suspense ; at length, resolving to risk every thing, we kneeled, and addressed a short, but fervent prayer, to God, for his support under this trial. The various perils we had already passed

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fed through, and those we had yet to encounter, taught us how much we stood in need of the assistance of the Supreme Being; relying, therefore, on his protection, the moment we had ended our ejaculations we all rushed into the water.

The bottom was very unequal, and for some time we waded in the uncertain course of ascending and descending, when suddenly we lost the ground, and plunged quite out of our depth. As we were not above an hundred yards from land, this unlucky circumstance dismayed us a good deal, and almost determined us to return back to shore: however, we continued still to press forward, and, after a few strokes, had the good fortune to recover our footing again; for we had only fallen into a hole, which might have been avoided by taking a round of ten or twelve paces, the water was not in any

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place

place higher than our chins ; and we reached the opposite coast without any other accident or misadventure.

Quite overpowered by fatigue, we sunk down on the strand, unable to advance one step farther. The day, fortunately for us, was perfectly serene, the sun shone bright, and darted his rays full upon us, which dried our cloaths, and defended us from the cold, which would have else been insupportable.

A few shell fish and some fresh water, that we were lucky enough to find as soon as we could move about, helped to restore our strength a little ; and, after a short search, we discovered the canoe. We examined it with eager attention ; but the view did not serve to encourage us ; it appeared impossible, from the state it was then in, ever to render it useful to us ; but we did not, however, so easily resign the fond hope

hope which had first induced us to undergo so much fatigue and peril on the prospect. It would have been a dreadful circumstance to us to have found ourselves undeceived all at once. We turned it, therefore, on every side; we considered every part, and, upon a thorough inspection, I concluded that all our efforts would be in vain.

Mr. Desclau and Monsieur la Couture were of a different opinion, and I acquiesced in their reasonings. We hazarded nothing by endeavouring to repair it; for it was but time and trouble thrown away, if we did not succeed. Now we were well accustomed to labour; and as to time, we had no other way of employing it; the work would amuse us while we were occupied about it, and help to sustain our small remains of hope. These considerations were matters of no inconsiderable

considerable importance, in a situation so wretched and forlorn as ours.

We began, then, directly, to gather a parcel of osiers, and a sort of tough-compacted mass that is called *Spanish beard*, that grows generally on the bark of the trees, in those islands; which we made use of for casing and caulking our leaky vessel. In this operation we continued to labour, till the more immediate calls of hunger obliged us to seek every-where for food, of which we happily found a sufficient quantity for that time.

The day was now beginning to close, and a sharp wind arose, which threatened us with a night severely cold; we lamented bitterly the not having it in our power to relieve ourselves with a fire; the smallest flint would have been to us, then, a greater treasure than the largest diamond.

At

At that instant I happened luckily to recollect that the savage, who had so cruelly betrayed us, had changed the flint of his gun the day that we rested in this island; the remembrance of this circumstance revived a gleam of hope in my desponding mind; I immediately started up, with a precipitation that surprised my companions; I left them, without speaking a word, and ran hastily towards that side of the shore where Antonio had landed us.

It was at no great distance, and I soon found the place where we had passed that night, and where there still remained the cinders of our fire; I searched carefully for the spot on which the Indian had changed his flint, and cast away the old one.

There was not a crevice but I examined with the most scrupulous attention, and not a blade of grass but I

turned up, to see if this precious stone was concealed beneath it.

I spent a full quarter of an hour in this fruitless search; night began to fall, and I had now only the faint and uncertain glimmering of the twilight to assist me, by which it was almost impossible to have discerned so small an object. I then gave up all hopes, and was preparing to return to my companions, more dispirited and afflicted than I was at leaving them, when I felt under my naked foot (for I had thrown aside my shoes, as being of no farther use to me) some hard substance or other. I stopt short, with a secret shuddering, an anxious state of mind between hope and fear; I stooped down, and, with a trembling hand, took it from under my foot, which I did not dare to move, for fear of missing what I was in search of. It was, in fine, the very flint I had been so long in quest of. The

The joy I felt, on this occasion, must, doubtless, appear amazing to you; and those who have never been in my circumstances, will look on this lucky prize but as a common pebble. O, my friend! may you ever remain a stranger to such extreme necessity as gives the highest value and importance to the most worthless things in nature!

Transported with extasy, I flew to my companions! "Good news! good news!" (I cried out, as far as they could hear me.) "I have found it! I have found it!" They ran towards me, at the sound of my exclamations, and inquired into the meaning of them. I shewed them the flint, and desired them immediately to gather up some dry wood; I took my knife, the only iron instrument which remained in our possession, I tore my ruffles for tinder; and, at last, contrived to light up.

a large fire, which defended us against the damps of the night, and warmed and relieved our wearied limbs.

How delicious did this night appear to us, compared to the foregoing ones ! With what luxury did we stretch ourselves before the fire ! How sweet and refreshing were our slumbers, in which we lay dissolved till the rays of the rising sun, beaming forcibly upon our heads, awakened us.

It is unnecessary to tell you with what a fond solicitude I watched and guarded the precious talisman, which had redeemed us from destruction ; I would never part with it, for a minute, even to those who were equally interested in its preservation, but kept it ever wrapt up in two handkerchiefs, which I tied about my neck ; and even now, while I am writing, I cannot help sometimes breaking off, and feeling for it, as if it were still there.

We

We passed the second day, after our arrival in this island, in continuing our labours toward repairing the skiff, and caulked it with one of our coverlets or blankets, which we sacrificed to that purpose; but had scarcely finished our work, when the day closed upon us; and we passed this second night in the flattering hopes of not finding our trouble useless.

The desire of trying the experiment, caused us to awake early, the next morning, eager to launch our canoe. But, alas! after all our endeavours, we had not yet rendered it fit for service, at least in the opinion of Monsieur Desclau and me; but Monsieur la Couture differed from us, and said that he would float it over to the island where he had left his wife and son, in hopes of being able to staunch it better, by their assistance.

M. Def-

M. Desclau and I chose rather to return to the island where the savage had left us, and where our eight sailors remained, in the hopes of finding him there, and forcing him to conduct us to the Appalaches, or perishing in the attempt. We promised not to abandon Monsieur la Couture, if we succeeded, and to send him immediate succours, or rejoin him, if we should happen to fail in our design.

We then took leave of him, and gained the other extremity of the island, after a most useless fatigue; for we could discover no fordable passage, in a canal of a league over, which divided us from the point we were bound to; and this was too large a stretch to undertake the crossing of, by swimming only. We, therefore, returned again to the spot from whence we had set out; but missed Monsieur la Couture, who had already carried over

his skiff to the place where his wife and son had been left behind.

We then set out, in order to follow him; but did not reach the border of the canal we were to cross, till it was almost night: we, therefore, waited till the next morning, before we would venture to pass it, as the fatigues of the day had rendered us too feeble to attempt it, then, with safety. The alarms we had suffered, the first time, even in the day, presented themselves to our imaginations, anew; and we did not think proper to expose ourselves to the same again, in the dark. Misfortunes render us extremely timorous. We call often upon death, at certain moments of distress, and wish for it, as the period of all our sorrows; but when it appears before us, we struggle against it with all the spirit and vigour of health and happiness.

The

The next morning we waded thro' the canal, with as good success, and less risk, than we had done before. We found Madame la Couture and her son, who had passed a most wretched and anxious time of it in our absence; we met also Monsieur la Couture with her, who had returned the night before, with the rotten canoe, that he had however contrived to ferry over, but not without its having been rendered almost as bad as before, even in so short a voyage. The labour we had employed about it, was quite thrown away, as there was not solid stuff enough to work upon; so that all its parts were now become loose and leaky again.

This ill success quite sunk our spirits, and we resigned all further hope in that project, for the future, and passed the remainder of that day in rest. The recovery of my flint was
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an happy circumstance for poor Madame la Couture and her son, who had been perishing so long for want of a fire. We lighted up one immediately, which reanimated their harassed spirits with warmth and comfort.

Oysters and vegetables had hitherto supplied us with our only sustenance, and even of such provision we had not always a sufficient quantity; but this day Providence furnished us with some food of a better kind. I had separated from my company, to take a solitary walk along the coast, and the irksome reflections which occupied my mind, prevented me from observing that I had strayed to a considerable distance; and I continued still ruminating, when a dead roebuck, that happened to lie in my way, roused my attention.

I examined it, turned it over, and found that it was still fresh. It appeared to have been wounded, and to have fled from the hunter, a-cross the water, to this spot, where its loss of blood had put an end to its life. I looked upon this occurrence as a present from heaven; and raising it with difficulty on my shoulders, returned back to my friends, whom I was not able to come up with, till after the fatigue of above an hour's march.

They were most joyfully surprized at the luckiness of my adventure, and most piously returned their grateful thanks to Providence, for this new relief. We stood in need of a more substantial nourishment, than we had been for some time supplied with, and we accordingly made preparations for a better repast than we had ever tasted since the commencement of our misfortunes.

We

We assisted in preparing the animal for food, by skinning and cutting it into quarters, and then broiled as much of it as served us for a plentiful meal; after which we lay down round our fire, and partook of a night's rest together.

On the following day, which was, as near as I can guess, the 26th of March, the impatient wish we had to get away from this island, made us to recur again to our periago, or canoe; to which we still returned with renewed ardour, but were still obliged to quit as often with the most mortal regret. The ill success of former trials did not discourage us from subsequent attempts; we continued to flatter ourselves that we should succeed better on returning to the work again, by profiting of the experience that our very disappointments might have afforded us, with regard either to the
method,

method, or materials, we had before applied towards staunching it.

But we had no change of stuff to supply, nor more solid substances to work upon; however our labour in vain was still renewed, without advancing a step in our operations; and after three intire days severe fatigue thrown away upon this occupation, and the sacrificing two more blankets, in endeavouring to caulk this skiff, we found at length how fruitless had been all our pains to render it serviceable; for before it had been a quarter of an hour in the water, we perceived it beginning to leak, on all sides.

This disappointment to our last hopes, shocked us extremely; and we found it absolutely impossible to remedy it. However, despairing of any other means of extricating ourselves from our present deplorable state, and panting to reach the continent, we
shut

shut our eyes upon the danger, and having only about two leagues to cross over to it, we resolved at last to hazard the attempt, in this sieve.

But then it must have been madness to have ventured on the passage, all at the same time. This would have sunk the boat, on our first setting out; we determined, therefore, that only three of us should try the experiment, this trip; namely, Monsieur la Couture, Monsieur Desclau, and I. That two of us should row, while the other was to be indefatigable in lading out the water that might leak in, with his hat.

This expedient we knew would lessen, tho' not annihilate our danger; but we resolved, notwithstanding, to take our chance, and deliver ourselves over into the hands of Providence, in hope of a second miracle in our fa-

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vour,

your, to bear us through this perilous adventure.

This resolution being taken, we deferred the execution of it till the next day, and spent the remainder of this, in endeavouring to persuade Madame la Couture to stay where she then was, with her son, and my negro, 'till we could send them a stronger boat, which might easily have been procured as soon as we should have reached the continent.

It was with difficulty we could reconcile her to this scheme, and she yielded, at length, with infinite reluctance. In order to bribe her consent, I left my flint and knife with her son; though I must confess it was with much regret that I ventured these two instruments out of my hands, which had been so extremely serviceable to us all, and which I might
 chance

chance to stand in need of myself, if I should be a second time ship-wrecked in the leaky canoe, and cast upon some desert shore: but it was necessary that she should be left with whatever comforts or conveniencies we could spare.

When we had quieted her apprehensions, and silenced her lamentations, we gathered together what provisions we could, both for her accommodation, and our own during the passage, and on the 29th of March, at sunrise, we set our canoe afloat, said our prayers, and embarked.

But we felt the plank we stood upon bend under our feet; our weight sunk the boat too low for safety, and we soon perceived the water beginning to spring through its sides. These appearances deprived me of all manner of hope; a secret trembling shook my whole frame, and a profound

terror seized me, which I found it impossible to conquer.

I already saw death before my eyes, and resolved not to venture upon the passage; but hastily stepping on shore, "No, my friends; (cried I, to la Couture and Desclau,) we must not undertake this voyage; before we could advance a quarter of a league, the boat would go to the bottom, and leave us in the midst of an unknown ocean, and far from any land where we could hope for refuge. Let us remain where we are at present, and wait with resignation the farther care and assistance of that kind Providence which has hitherto preserved us.—Let us not throw ourselves into the arms of death, nor challenge his stroke before our time. Heaven will perhaps take pity on our long sufferings, and our patience and submission may at length merit its final relief."

Mon-

Monfieur la Couture preffed me to return, and made a jeft of my apprehenfions. My follicitations and arguments were to him of no effect, he ftill perfifted in his purpofe to hazard the voyage, and Monfieur Defclau departed along with him.

I remained on the ftand, looking after them, while they continued in fight; I faw them proceed with great difficulty, and turn round a little ifland that was not far from our own, which foon prevented me from feeing any more of them.

I make no doubt but they muft have perifted then, as I have never received any account of them fince; and I believe that the boat could have fubfifted but fo fhort a time above water, that had it not been for the ifland which intervened, and concealed them from my fight, I might, perhaps,

have had the shock of seeing the vessel sink before my eyes, and my unfortunate friends buried along with it in the waves.

The condition of the periago, as already represented, is a presumption of this event, equal almost to a conviction; and some further circumstances that have occurred to my knowledge since, and of which I shall hereafter speak, have confirmed me in the certainty of their loss.

I returned to Madame la Couture, who very little expected to have seen any of us so soon, if ever; she had not accompanied us to the boat, for as her heart had not consented to our risk, she could not have borne the sight of our departure. I found her sitting by the fire, with her back turned to the sea, weeping bitterly, and lamenting the misery of her hopeless situation.

My

My presence surprized and startled her.—“ You are not yet gone, (said she,) Ah! what has prevented you? “ Believing your departure certain, I “ was endeavouring to reconcile myself to our separation, and this afflicting reflection was beginning to “ affect me less, through the hope that “ you would not neglect me. But I “ see you are returned again, and yet “ cannot rejoice, as it can only serve “ to renew the pangs of a second “ parting.”

I strove to avoid giving her more lively sensations of sorrow, by not telling her the reason of my coming back, or hinting my fears about the unhappy adventurers I had left behind, of whom one was her husband. I concealed the danger to which they had exposed themselves, and pretended only, that upon our apprehending three passengers to be too great a weight for

the boat, I had made my choice of staying with her, 'till their return in some stouter vessel that might be able to carry us all together over to the continent.

I added, as I still considered her to be an object of the utmost compassion, that Monsieur la Couture being charmed with my determination, and assured that he was to leave a sincere friend behind, to comfort and take care of his wife and child, had proceeded on the voyage with better spirits and satisfaction; and that I had promised him to be active in my services and assistance to both of them.

Madame la Couture returned me thanks, almost on her knees; my staying with her seemed to console her extremely, and to raise a sort of confidence in her mind, that Providence would unite us soon, all happily again.

We

We remained now but four persons in the whole island, and I had the care alone of providing for the safety and subsistence of us all. Madame la Couture and her son were too weak and helpless to afford me much assistance, so that the negro was the only one who could be of any material service to me; and he was but a sort of organized machine, whose legs and arms alone were useful; he had neither sense nor forecast, and was almost as much an incumbrance on me, as the others; as he could give me no manner of help, but when mere manual labour was required.

For some days after I had returned to them, the winds continued at south and south-east, which unhappily prevented us, as I before observed, from being able to procure any subsistence, from oysters or other shell-fish, so that we were reduced to support ourselves solely

solely on a sort of wild sorrel we picked up on the island, which afforded us but a wretched sustenance, and weakened our stomachs, without satisfying them.

The roe-buck that I had so luckily met with, had been totally devoured, before our companions left us; and the same good fortune did not occur again: a series of lucky hits are not to be expected in this uncertain world. In fine, our wants and distresses augmented every hour.

Six days had passed since the departure of Monsieur la Couture and Desclau; at sometimes I had slight hopes that we might possibly hear from, or see them return to our succour; but then again, my spirits soon sunk into despondency, and even Madame la Couture began at length to give them over for lost, and conclude that they must have perished at sea.

I could not pretend any longer to calm her fears and sollicitudes, who had myself so much stronger reasons than she to be confirmed in the same opinion; besides, the anxieties I had suffered, with the heaviness of my misfortunes, had soured my temper, and given me such a weariness and disgust, that I was, at length, rendered incapable of disguising my sentiments, or preserving any further management of them, with regard to others.

Tired to the last degree with my wretched situation, and knowing, of a sad certainty, that I had no one but myself now to expect any relief from, toward extricating us out of our deplorable circumstances, a thought occurred strongly to my mind, one morning, that I might possibly be able to collect sufficient materials together, on the island, capable of floating us over, some calm day or other, to the continent.

This

This idea operated in so lively a manner on my imagination, that I regretted my not thinking of it before the departure of my poor friends; they could have assisted me in such an undertaking, with better effect than in all the labour we had thrown away together, or rather worse employed, upon the fatal canoe. I was resolved, therefore, to set about this work, without a moment's farther loss of time, while I preserved sufficient strength of body and mind to execute it.

I instantly communicated my purpose to Madame la Couture, who seemed transported at the thought, and who immediately surmounting the natural feebleness of her sex, which her misfortunes had augmented, set her hand to the business with amazing vigour and spirit.

We all of us engaged in the work, without the least manner of delay; I em-

employed the young man in stripping a parcel of trees of their bark, directing him to those which I thought might answer the purpose best, while his mother, the negro, and I assisted one another in dragging them down to the sea-side, with extreme labour, as our strength had been considerably impaired by fasting, watching, and former fatigue. At every five or six steps of the way, we were obliged to halt, and lay ourselves down to rest; and, as soon as we had recovered breath, returned to our work, with a resolution and perseverance, that nothing but the ardour of redeeming ourselves from this horrid exile could have inspired and supported.

We were almost exhausted by the time that the falling of night would otherwise have forced us to lay aside our labour, and had the pleasure, on our return to the fire-side, to find a large quantity of oysters, mussels, cockles,

cockles, and other shell-fish, that the young la Couture had gathered, at low-water, upon the changing of the wind, which happened that evening,

Such kind of food is deemed unwholesome, and of bad digestion, eaten raw; therefore we broiled them on our charcoal, which was the first time we had ever taken this precaution, and we found it agree better with our stomachs. These fish lose all their dangerous qualities by cookery, becoming lighter, and more nourishing, but are less grateful to the palate; and we had nothing to season them with: we had no salt, nor knew we how to make any: the float, which engaged our whole attention, did not permit us leisure enough to set about such a manufacture. We were willing to forgive that, or any other commodity, rather than be confined for life, in so forlorn a situation.

The

The next morning, we set ourselves to our business again; the tough rinds of those trees which I had directed La Couture to strip, served us to bind the timber together; but, as we did not think those ligatures strong enough to trust to, on our voyage, I made Madame la Couture cut up one of our blankets, into strings, for the purpose. My negro brought me several pieces of smaller and more pliant branches, with which we interwove the grosser timber, and my raft was completed, about noon. I then set up a stick, in the middle of it, which I fastened as well as I could, to serve for a mast, to which I tied a blanket, by way of fail; and then broke up our stockings, to form the thread into cordage, to shift it, as the wind might vary.

These lesser matters employed us for the rest of that day, when we finished

nished the work, even to the fixing a small piece of timber behind, by way of rudder.

Being determined to set out, the next morning, at break of day, we employed ourselves, even as late as it then was, in making a provision of some oysters and vegetables, of which we were lucky enough to collect a sufficient quantity to serve us at sea, and deposited them on the raft, which we had moored on the strand, waiting for the return of the tide, to set it afloat. The ebb generally commenced early in the morning, and we purposed the retiring along with it.

In expectation of this happy minute, we lay down to repose ourselves, before our fire, but slept very little; for there arose an horrid storm, in the middle of the night: the heavy rain, quick flashes of lightning, and
loud

loud thunder, soon roused us from our slumbers. The wind was high, and the waves grew boisterous.

This made us tremble for the safety of our raft, our sole *palladium*; and the raging of the elements having ceased, just at the dawn of day, we all ran down to the shore, to see how it had withstood the hurricane. But alas! it was no more! The waves had hurried it from its mooring, tore it to pieces and buried it in the sea, along with our whole stock of provisions, for the voyage. Our courage abandoned us all, upon this extremity of ill fortune, and we spent the whole day in condoling with each other, and lamenting the severity of our fate, without sparing one thought toward attempting any future relief, or even attending to the more immediate support of nature.

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A new affliction was now added to our other miseries. Since the commencement of our misfortunes, we had none of us fallen ill ; our healths had been happily still preserved, throughout all our difficulties ; and we suffered no other inconveniencies, except want and weakness. My negro, while we were consoling one another, upon our present distress, had gone to search the border of the sea for some kind of sustenance, which, under the pressure of our present despondency, we had wholly neglected.

The tide was in, and he could not get at any sort of shell-fish ; but happening to meet with the head and skin of a porpoise, he brought them to us in a sort of triumph at his success. It was almost come to a state of putrefaction, but hunger has no delicacy ; so having broiled it, our craving stomachs

stomachs greedily devoured every morsel of that food, which was so offensive both to our sight and smell.

About an hour after we had swallowed this meal, we were all of us seized with a most deadly sickness; our stomachs had been overcharged, and we could not contrive how to rid them of this irksome incumbrance. We had recourse to water, of which luckily there was plenty in the island, and drank large draughts of it; but this only eased us by degrees, as we had no method of making it warm. Our disorder turned to a dysentery, which continued severely on us all, for about five days.

The design of constructing another float had occurred to me, the moment that I saw the former had been destroyed; but grief, disappointment, and fatigue, had put it out of my power to undertake such a work, on the first day; and we were

none of us in a condition to set about it while our disorder continued ; and, even after it had ceased, we were left in too weakly a state to attempt it.

However, the dread of the same, or some other disease, attacking us again, determined me to apply what little strength subsisted still among us, towards this so necessary purpose. It had been madness to have waited till our powers might have been so totally exhausted, as to disable us intirely from executing the project. I exhorted Madame la Couture to second me ; she made an effort on herself, as well as I, and we all applied ourselves to the work, except her son, who continued still extremely ill.

It was now about the 11th of April, I speak by guess, and we laboured at this operation, without intermission, and with as much exertion of ourselves, as the enfeebled state of body
we

we were reduced to would permit, and had the success to see it completely finished by the 15th of the same month, at night.

We suffered double the fatigue in framing this raft, that we had undergone with the other ; for the timber we were obliged to make use of, on this occasion, lay at a greater distance from the shore, as what was to be got nearer had been all worked up, in the former one ; so that the difficulty of rolling the trees to the sea-side, must have been unsurmountable, in our then state of weakness, if hope and despair both had not united together, for the first time, to inspire the strength of our bodies with the spirit of our minds.

At every pause of labour, we trembled, lest bad weather should again overtake us, and interrupt our progress, or destroy the work as soon as

it might be finished. And yet it was impossible to use any further precaution; it must be constructed on the beach, and as near the sea as could be, that the flowing of the tide might set it afloat, as all our united strength would not have been able to launch it of ourselves. The slightest cloud that appeared, or the least breeze that blew, struck us with a panic, and made us foresee a tempest; and our fears tempted us often to quit the work, lest all our labour should be a second time employed in vain.

We returned to it again, but without spirit, and labouring still under the utmost anxiety; for as we had sacrificed to this project, the rest of our blankets and stockings, if a storm should disappoint our hopes, as it had done already, we should have had neither comfort or resource left us then; but must have resigned ourselves
 4 up,

up, without farther struggle, to destruction.

During the intire night of the 15th, our fears ceased not for a single moment; even the serenity of the evening could not inspire us with confidence. We never thought of sleep, but spent the time in collecting together all the provisions we could, of fish, roots, and vegetables, and depositing them on our raft, as before, resolved to set out as soon as day-light appeared, if we should be so happy as to escape a renewal of the same misfortune and disappointment, which we had so severely experienced before.

The morning returned, at length, and opened with all favourable omens. I went to awaken young La Couture, to embark with us. He was the only one of us whose weakness and fatigue, having ballanced his anxiety, had induced to sleep. I called him, but he

made no reply: I took hold of his hand, to shake him from his slumber, but found him cold as marble, without movement or sensation. I concluded him to be dead, for some minutes; but feeling his naked breast, I perceived his heart was still beating, though with a feeble pulse.

Our fire was reduced to the last cinder; for, being in hopes of quitting the island every moment, and having no farther occasion for it, we took no care to renew it. I ordered the negro to put on fresh fuel, while I exerted myself in rubbing the poor young man's hands, legs, and arms.

Madame la Couture came to us, just at that instant; but I shall not attempt to describe her situation, her grief, and exclamations, on the sight of her son. She fell into a swoon, by his side, which I thought would have put an end to her life. Occupied so materially about
the

the son, what assistance could I afford to the mother ! I, however, divided my cares between them, as she appeared to stand in almost equal need of them.

The negro having made a good fire, I ordered him to raise up the young man, before it, and to warm him by degrees, while, by shaking the mother, and sprinkling cold water on her face, I brought her, at last to her senses. I said every thing in my power to comfort, and give her hopes ; but she remained still inconsolable, and soon grew as sick as if she had been at sea.

Her son began, at length, to recover ; the cold had overpowered him in the night, which, joined to the weak habit he had been before reduced to, by sickness and labour, had thrown him into a state of lethargy, which must certainly have ended in death, if I had not luckily come, just at that instant, to his relief.

What

What a situation was mine, in these circumstances ! Abandoned on a desert island, in want of every support and assistance, encumbered with two helpless persons, whom I could neither relieve nor forsake, and destitute of all manner of remedies, either for their weakness or disorder, having only a few oysters, some decayed roots, and vegetables, and a little cold water to supply them with.

And at what a critical time we were reduced to these unhappy circumstances ! at the very moment when our hopes were highest, of extricating ourselves from our wretched condition of existence, and of flying to some happy spot of the earth, where we might expect to have met with the solace and comforts of humanity !

There was no thinking of setting out on our voyage this day ; both the mother and son were too ill and weak to attempt

attempt it, as their deaths appeared to be the immediate consequence. To leave them behind was a thought which shocked my mind, and which my heart was therefore incapable of; and yet to abide with them, appeared to be only to expose myself to further miseries and disappointments, which could finally terminate in no other redemption but death alone, by hazarding the destruction of this second raft, and seeing it wrecked at sea before my eyes.

This last idea, which my former experience had given me so strong an apprehension of, distracted my mind and perplexed my resolves, to such a degree, as no reason could combat, nor resolution conquer; and every thought, scheme, or reflection, only seemed to increase the difficulties of my purposes.

But

But this hesitation did not disturb me long; I determined to fulfil the obligations of humanity, and submitted my fate, at length, to all the hazards that must necessarily attend my staying with these unhappy objects; I surrendered myself up a victim on the altar of compassion, and put my trust in the great Deity of benevolence, for my redemption.

I then ran down to the sea-side, and brought away the provisions we had confided to the raft. My heart bled inwardly at the sight of this our last and only hope, which perhaps in a few hours might be snatched from us, for ever; I endeavoured to moor it in such a manner as might better enable it to resist the raging of the sea, if a second storm should assail us; I took away the mast, sail, and cordage, in short, every thing that we could not repair upon a second wreck, and laid them

them by in a safe place, beyond the reach of the waves ; but the blanket particularly I brought up to our invalids, who needed the comfort of it in their weakly state.

I spent the rest of the day in assisting and comforting the mother and the son, doing and saying every thing in my power that I thought might strengthen and encourage them, and remove all obstacles to our departure.

The grief of Madame la Couture, and her fears about her son, were the sole cause of her disorder ; these I contrived to dissipate in part, not in giving her hopes that I had not myself, being thoroughly persuaded that he could not recover, but by inspiring her with resolution to bear the misfortune, and a perfect resignation to the will of Heaven.

I thought it better thus to prepare her for the event I expected, and which I ap-

pre-

prehended would happen before the next morning, than to amuse her with insincere hopes; for indeed he was reduced by this time to the most deplorable situation imaginable; he had wholly recovered his senses, but his feebleness was so great that he was obliged to lye stretched on the ground, in his blanket; his limbs could not support his body, either to stand, or sit up; and it was with the utmost difficulty he was enabled to turn himself from one side to the other.

I lay awake that whole night, by his side, watching to lend him any assistance he might stand in need of; nor did he close his eyes, but spoke to me frequently, returning me thanks for my kindness and attentions, and regretting extremely his happening to be the cause of retarding our voyage.

I never in my life heard any thing so tender and affecting, as the expressions

sions this poor young man addressed to me, on this melancholy occasion. He had an excellent natural understanding, with a quick and deep sensibility, and a spirit and firmness of mind far beyond his years.

About break of day he found himself growing worse; and I had the precaution to keep his mother at a considerable distance from him, that she might not see him in his last agonies. This is a spectacle that is shocking to common spectators, what must it be to a parent! I knew well that all the fortitude I had taken such pains to inspire her with, would have failed her at such a sight, which has double the effect on our minds that the mere hearing of it has.

The young man exerting all his strength spoke to me thus: "Accept, "Sir, my thanks for all the kindness "you have shewn me; and pardon the "anxiety

"anxiety and trouble I have given you,
 "which can now no longer soothe or
 "serve me. I feel the hour of death
 "approaching.—I shall never quit this
 "island, and were Heaven to prolong
 "my days, I could not accompany
 "you in your voyage; my legs refuse
 "their support, and can no longer
 "bear me; were I even arrived on the
 "continent, they have not strength to
 "convey me from the borders; and
 "habitations are rarely found upon the
 "coasts. I must then be left in the
 "woods, a prey to wild beasts, and
 "experience dangers still more dread-
 "ful, than I have already sustained.

"Let me advise you, (said he, after
 "a short pause) to be gone; take the
 "advantage of the present moment,
 "and the raft you have prepared, if,
 "that should be lost, you have no o-
 "ther means of relief." Then pressing
 my hand between his, the tears start-
 ing

ing from his eyes: "Take with you,
 "(said he,) take my dear mother; the
 "knowing that she is under your care
 "shall yield a consolation to my latest
 "moments. Leave me what provisions
 "you can spare; if Heaven should yet
 "lend me life a little longer, I may
 "want them. When you are arrived
 "in any place of safety, you will not
 "forget me, but will have the huma-
 "nity, I doubt not, to return hither
 "again, and to afford me that succour
 "and relief that I must certainly stand
 "in need of, should I be found yet
 "alive; or piously supply the rites of
 "sepulture, should you, as most proba-
 "ble, find me dead.

"Make no reply, (said he, perceiv-
 "ing I was about to interrupt him,)
 "what I require is just; the uncertain
 "hope of seeing me in a condition to
 "accompany you, ought not to make
 "you risk the certain danger of pe-
 K "rishing

“rishing with me,—no; I will die,
 “alone.—Dear friend, be gone, pro-
 “tect my mother; hide from her the
 “condition I am reduced to, and the
 “counsel I have given.—Comfort her,
 “—and depart.”

I stood mute and astonished, dur-
 ing his discourse; a thousand ideas
 rushed confusedly into my mind, tho’
 all concurring in this one, that our de-
 liverance depended on following his
 advice; and cruel necessity urged me
 to comply, while humanity, compas-
 sion, and tenderness, opposed it. Agi-
 tated by these different emotions, I
 clasped him in my arms, whilst my
 flowing tears bedewed his dying face.
 I applauded his fortitude, and exhort-
 ed him to preserve in it, to the last mo-
 ment; and parted from him without
 rendering him still further unhappy,
 by mentioning the state of irresolution
 I yet remained in, about following the

counsel he had so strongly and generously recommended to me.

When I retired I was wholly wrapped up in reflections on his discourse; I admired it, and thought, with horror, that we must unavoidably perish all together, if I delayed to undertake the adventure he had pointed out to me; and yet the idea of abandoning him in so forlorn a situation, shocked my humanity, and suspended my resolve. I could have borne him on my shoulders to the raft, and have given him every assistance, during the passage; but then what was to become of him, on our landing? We could carry him no further; and where could we repose him then, with safety? His state in the island was attended with less dangers, than those to which he must be necessarily exposed, in this journey: here was no wild beast to fear, and some

conveniencies were already provided for him.

Dwelling on this idea, for some time, my mind became more familiar with it, and by degrees the thought of leaving him behind me, began to appear less repugnant to my feelings. My own preservation, his mother's also, our inevitable destruction, in the present circumstances of our fate appeared to be a sufficient dispensation from attending one moment longer to any other consideration.

I flattered myself that our voyage would be short; and that we should presently arrive at some inhabited part of the continent, where I might find a boat and such assistance as would enable me to return immediately, and restore him to his mother's arms. This prospect, however improbable in itself, appeared then to the warmth of
my

my hopes and wishes, to be no unlikely event. And yet, notwithstanding such a reflection, I could not bring myself to put my resolves into execution, all that day.

In the evening I returned to the young man again, who reproved my delay, in the most affecting terms : " If, (said he,) your stay here could procure me even a respite from death, I might not, perhaps, oppose it; but your best efforts cannot avail me, now. I may, perhaps, linger out a day, or two, longer, while another storm may arise, and carry off the float, on which your only trust depends at present. You will then lament in vain that you had not taken my advice; and your distress will be the more aggravated, by finding that your delay has neither afforded me consolation, or assistance. I shall then expire before my dear

"mother's eyes, and carry with me to
 "the grave the melancholy assurance
 "that she will not long survive me. In
 "the mean time I shall leave her over-
 "whelmed with sorrow, and despair ;
 "every object in this place, which she
 "can then have no hope of ever quit-
 "ting, will revive my image to her
 "mind, and renew the source of her
 "griefs, which absence, time, and
 "change of place may serve to weaken
 "and relieve. Take the advantage of
 "this night, to make your prepara-
 "tions, collect your provisions toge-
 "ther, leave me the smallest portion
 "of them, and depart at dawn of day ;
 "do not disturb my mother, till you
 "are ready to embark ; suffer her to
 "imagine that I am no more, and that
 "you would remove her from a sight
 "that might distract her ; leave her
 "still in this error, but endeavour to
 "console her, under it."

The

The state in which I beheld this young man, his amazing composure of mind, with the urgent necessity we were under, at last determined me. I took the coverlet he had over him, and gave him, in its stead, a furtout I had on; I stripped myself also of my waistcoat, and put it on him, leaving him accommodated with every thing that it was then in my power to provide him with.

While I was setting up my mast, to which I fastened the coverlet, by way of sail, the negro collected for us a large quantity of shell-fish, which soon compleated my little cargo of sustenance. I took some of them and dried them by the fire, which, with what other aliments I could procure, I placed within the reach of La Couture. The spring was now advanced, the nights were no longer cold, and

fire therefore became less necessary to him.

I then laid myself down to rest, for some hours, waiting for that of my departure, but could not sleep, so that I passed the time in conversing with the poor invalid, who reposed as little as I, and who made the most generous efforts on himself, all the while, in persuading me to bear our separation with fortitude, and requesting, at the close of every period, that I would comfort and protect his mother; but the violence he did himself, in this exertion of his strength and spirits, overcame him, at last, and an hour before day he appeared to be deprived of all sense and motion.

My utmost endeavours could not bring him to himself, and I gave him up for dead. I must confess that I thought this an happy release to him,

and

and a consolation also to myself, as I should now be able to quit him without any manner of regret; but at day-break I perceived he yet breathed, tho' he remained still speechless, and seemed to be in the last agonies of death. I left him, however, all the necessaries I could; I filled the shells of the oysters with fresh water, and placed them so near him, that should he ever happen to recover strength enough to need it, he might not want refreshment; not that I had the least hope, in so doing, that he could ever survive to a state capable of receiving benefit from my care. Having thus done all in my power towards his preservation, I recommended him in my prayers to Heaven, and then went to take charge of his mother, whom I awaked, with some difficulty. "Madam (said I, hastily), we must be gone; Heaven ordains it, and

"and 'tis our duty to submit to its decrees. Let us hasten from hence, time presses, and a moment's delay may be irreparable." — "Ah, (cried she out) my son is no more! — my husband dead! — all, all is lost!" —

Here she stood silent, while floods of tears supplied the place of less expressive words; nor did I attempt to stop their natural course; but led her immediately to our raft, to which she made not the least resistance. I feared she would have asked to see her son, which might, perhaps, have ruined our design, by retarding our voyage, for another day, and have rendered her incapable, also, of undertaking it, at all, by depriving her of the strength which was so necessary for her to preserve, on so trying an occasion; but happily she had no idea but that her son was far beyond all human care; and, indeed, I was myself so fully assured

assured of it, that, in addressing my prayers to Heaven, while I guided the float; I recommended his departed soul, as well as our safety, to its Providence.

It was on the 19th of April, if my memory fail me not, that we left the island; and, after twelve hours sail, happily reached the continent, without the least accident or inconvenience, except that of labour and fatigue. The first thing we did was to thank the Supreme Being for our safe landing; we forsook the raft, after having taken out our provisions, blankets, and cordage, and endeavoured to advance into the country; but found it impracticable, it being for the most part overflowed, which greatly distressed us, and evinced, that our troubles were not yet at an end, but pursued us alike, by sea and land.

It

It was now sun-set ; the extreme weariness we sunk under, and the fear of losing ourselves in the night, made us cast about for some place of safety. We made choice of a piece of rising-ground, which, by its eminence, preserved us from the waters that everywhere surrounded us : here were, also, several large trees, whose branches, now furnished with leaves, sheltered us from the wind and dews. I took out my flint, which I never eat, drank, slept, or moved a step, without, and striking a light, presently kindled a good fire, by which we sat down, and supped on some of the provisions we had brought with us.

Here we hoped to have passed the night in peace, as our fatigue had inclined our eyes to sleep, and our limbs to rest, which, indeed, we much wanted ; but no sooner had we reposed ourselves, than we were awakened with such

such dreadful howlings, as struck our hearts with terror and dismay; they seemed to answer each other, and encompass us on all sides. 'Tis impossible to conceive the horror with which we were seized, expecting every moment to become a prey to these ferocious animals, that seemed to approach us nearer and nearer, as the din grew louder at every howl.

My negro, giving way to the first emotion of his fear, ran to a tree, which he climbed up into with inconceivable swiftness; Madame la Couture followed him instantly, wringing her hands, and begging him to assist her to gain the same asylum; but his apprehension rendered him deaf to her cries, as it did her to my call; for in vain I intreated them both to return; in vain assured them that, by quitting the fire they had left the only place of security.

I then

I then soon heard a voice of terror, calling out to me, "Help! help! Mr. Viaud, or I am lost!" I immediately snatched up a brand out of the fire, my apprehension for her getting the better of all fears for myself, and flew to her assistance. By the light of my torch I perceived Madame la Couture running towards me with the utmost speed, pursued by a monstrous bear, who, at sight of me, stopped short. I advanced towards him, with trembling steps, my fire-brand in my hand; and having joined Madame la Couture, conducted her back unhurt; the bear sending forth a hideous growl, but not daring to follow us.

I then endeavoured to convince her that our safety depended on staying in this place; for that fire had always been found the best means of keeping off wild beasts, who never ventured to approach it. The distance at which
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the bear kept from us, and the daunted look with which he eyed us, confirmed her in this opinion, and she began to recover her courage again, when we received a new alarm.

The tree which the negro had climbed into, was at some distance from us; the extremity of his fear not permitting him to make a choice, though there were several nearer to us, which might have afforded him a safer, shelter. I looked directly towards the place where the cries proceeded, and by the light of our fire, which now blazed prodigiously, I saw the bear had reared itself up an end, against the very tree where this unfortunate boy had betaken himself for refuge, and was about to climb it.

I knew not which way to give him the least assistance; but called to him to get to the highest, and most pliant boughs, that were at the same time
strong

strong enough to bear his weight, tho' too slight to support this unwieldy animal, whose instinctive faculties are such as direct them not to venture on any but the larger branches.

At the same time I threw several flaming faggots against the foot of the tree, in hopes to fright the beast from his purpose; which happily succeeded, at last: for having thrown them thick on each other, they burned together, with great fierceness, and formed a second bon-fire, the blaze and smoak of which almost blinded the beast, who descending precipitately on the other side of the tree, quitted the field directly.

All hopes of sleep or rest, for this night, were now given over; our apprehensions were continually kept awake, by the incessant howlings which surrounded us, and continued till morning: several bears approached near enough
for

for us, to distinguish their horrid forms; and some tygers appeared also in sight, which, perhaps, magnified by our fears, appeared of a most enormous size; nay, there was one of them that advanced nearer to us, than any of the rest, in defiance of our *passive* fire; but, upon my darting several lighted faggots at him, he retreated, after having sent forth a most horrid howl, which was ecchoed back by all the other beasts of the forest.

In order to secure ourselves from any further visits from such horrid neighbours, we cast about a number of flaming brands, as far as our strength could throw them, so as to form a sort of torrid zone about our central fire. This expedient, by removing the beasts at a greater distance from us, kept them out of our sight, and, therefore, lessened our fears. But then, as this was done at the expence of our bon-fire,

the wood that encompassed it was consuming fast, and we dreaded extremely, lest it should be all spent, before the morning's dawn.

But happily the night had been further advanced than we imagined, before our fire began to fail us; and the howlings, which had terrified us long, grew less and less; seemed to retire to a greater distance, every moment; and, at length, left not the least echo of themselves vibrating on the air, by the time that day appeared. The savage brutes, at its approach, retired into their dens, there to lye down and sleep till night should again set them at liberty to roam abroad for prey*.

I took the advantage of this favourable circumstance, to gather in some

* Thus maketh darkness that it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. PSALMS.

fresh

fresh fuel, and repair our fire; I then summoned my negro to assist me, whom it was with much difficulty I could prevail on to descend from the uppermost branch of the tree he had perched himself in, and who, when he came before me, appeared more dead than alive.

After the fear and fatigue of the night, we could not think of setting forward, before we had taken some repose, which we stood in great need of; and, at last, ventured to stretch ourselves down before our fire; but the agitations of our minds prevented us from any perfect enjoyment of that blessing, and we slumbered rather than slept, till noon.

We then took a slight repast, which consumed the remainder of our provisions, and began our journey, tending easterly, in hopes of getting to St. Mark in the Apalachian moun-

tains, and meeting in our route with some of the savages, who might conduct us on our way, furnish us with provisions, or knock us on the head. This last was the worst we had to apprehend, and we would sooner prefer a sudden death than chuse to live as we had done too long before, passing from one misfortune to another, and exposed to the perishing with hunger, or supplying the wild beasts of the forest with meals to assuage theirs.

Our weakness did not suffer us to go far, that day, our journey being only about an hour and an half's slow pace; we took care to halt, before our little strength was quite exhausted; the terrors of the night before warned us to use some time and precaution, in collecting a sufficient quantity of wood for our fire. We gathered as much as we could get together, and pitched on a spot situated almost as our last stage had been,

After

After having constructed our principal pile, without lighting it, we fixed a dozen of others all round it, at about twenty yards distance from our centre, dividing the circle, into equal intervals. This was necessary to guard the approach, on all sides, and was the only method we could devise, to defend us from the fury of the wild beasts.

Fear was the first principle of our actions, which must have been very powerful in us, when it was superior to the pressing calls of hunger. We then began to look about for food of any kind; but the place we were in, as well as all we had passed through, was completely barren of all sorts of nourishment: there were neither fish, roots, nor vegetables, fit for eating, to be found. We searched every-where, in vain; and thought ourselves happy, at last, in meeting even with a pool of muddy water, which, however, had

not been stagnated, of which we drank plentifully; and this was all the meal we had to subsist on for the whole day.

As soon as the night fell, I struck fire, and lighted up all our piles: I did not care to do this sooner, because there could be no danger till the howlings began; and that it was requisite to manage our small stock of fuel with the most sparing oeconomy, to make it hold out till the next morning.

We then immediately laid ourselves down to rest, in order to secure some minutes sleep, before the savage monsters should come prowling through the plain, and rouse us from our slumbers by their dreadful yells. They did not disturb us till about midnight, and we slept soundly till then: our fatigues and weakness had induced such an oblivion of our senses, that it prevented

prevented our hearing them, before, as I might well judge, from the horrid din which assailed our ears, the instant we awoke, that they must have been proclaiming war for some time, as they were got into full cry before we heard them.

We might imagine that all the savage beasts, throughout the deserts of this new world, had been gathered together, to terrify us with their howlings. The different species of animals were to be distinguished by their cries; the roarings of the lions were eminently dreadful, above all the rest, and danger appeared to approach us nearer than we had apprehended it, either of the nights before; for we seemed to be separated from the beasts themselves, only by the narrow circle of our fires; which continued happily all in a blaze, and so prevented any of them from approaching us near enough to be seen;

which was a lucky circumstance for us, as the dismay, which such a brutal thunder had thrown us into before, would have been so augmented, at the sight of them, that one only appearing in view, would have killed us with affright.

Madame la Couture and the negro were in a shocking situation; I saw them several times faint quite away with fear, and called back again to life, by the howlings of the wolf, the churnings of the bear, the growlings of the tyger, or the roarings of the lion. My terror was certainly not inferior to theirs, and yet I pretended to encourage and hearten them, at first; but, while I was striving to inspire them with courage, I lost my own: a cold sweat bedewed all my limbs, and my crouching close to the fire was the only thing that kept me from falling into a swoon.

The

The welcome morn at length arrived, and, by driving the beasts back to their dens, relieved our alarms, which had hitherto suspended the cruel sensations of hunger : but, as soon as our fears were abated, these began to operate to a severe degree. Thus were we fated to sustain alternately, the most bitter ills of life, hunger and fear. But the necessity of food, under an impossibility of procuring it, is certainly the greatest of them. We tried every thing we could lay our hands on, put it into our mouths, and spit it out as fast again.

We could not think of lying down to rest, as we had done the morning before ; but marched forward, in hopes of meeting with some vegetable or other, fit to eat, and tried every plant in the desert, but in vain. They were either dry heath, or leafless brambles whose stems were only a hard wood,

8

which

which we could scarcely set our teeth in, and which we could not prevail on ourselves to swallow the juice of, after we had chewed them.

Every experiment we made failed equally of success, forced tears from our eyes, and sunk us to the utmost depth of despair. Toward evening we arrested our course, oppressed with the agonies of grief, and without the least ability to proceed one step further: we laid ourselves down on the ground, doubtful whether we should ever be able to raise our limbs from it, again; waiting for death, and praying for it, with fervency, as the only hope we had to terminate our unexampled misery.

The negro, who was as weak as we, but animated by the rage of hunger, started up, ran to a tree that he had been looking earnestly at, for some time, and gathering handfulls of the leaves, devoured them with a greediness

diness that surprised us, and made me conclude, that they must be of a delicious flavour. The idea that they might serve for food, encouraged our appetite; and we followed the negro, to the tree, and partook of his eager repast.

Our hunger and our hopes supplied these leaves with a savour that they had not in themselves, and we swallowed them as voraciously, as the slave had done; but, finding that this vegetable only filled our stomachs, without feeding them, after having eaten a tolerable quantity of them, we became afraid of venturing further, on such a doubtful meal, and retired from the tree *.

After this experiment we prepared for our security during the night, and

* The tendrils, or spring-shoots of trees, were the sustenance of St. John, in the wilderness, rendered *locusts*, in the English translation of the Bible; and thence mistaken for the insect of that name,

employed

employed ourselves in heaping up piles of wood for our fires, as before ; which was no very difficult task, as we found a sufficient quantity of dry timber near the place we had determined to sojourn in till morning ; we soon finished our work, and sat down in the middle of it, waiting till the closing of the day should oblige us to light the heaps.

But we had hardly reposed ourselves for an hour, when we all of us found ourselves extremely sick ; the leaves we had eaten gave us such a convulsion in our bowels, that it was with difficulty we could writhe ourselves along the ground, till we reached a neighbouring spring, of which we drank plentifully, but immediately felt our stomachs puffed up, almost to bursting ; for, it seems that the vegetables we had swallowed, were of a spongy nature, and were swelled by the water. We forced ourselves to puke
which

which discharged the load by degrees; but not without great agony and voiding of blood.

We lay stretched by the spring, for a considerable time, without strength or motion, incapable of removing ourselves from it, and expecting to expire every moment; the setting sun left us in this helpless situation, and the night had far advanced upon us, before we were in a condition to stir. We lamented at not being able to return to our piles to light them up; we expected every instant that the wild beasts would come to devour us, and this terror but increased our weakness. We sighed, we wept, we murmured our complainings, but had not strength enough to utter them aloud.

The night having been now far spent, augmented our dread; we tried again to creep on our knees and hands to our asylum, and after the utmost efforts,

efforts, we at last reached it; but so enfeebled, that it was with the greatest difficulty I was able to strike a light from my flint, the sparks of which were received on a piece of cloth that Madame la Couture was obliged to tear off from her shift; and even after this was done, I almost despaired of communicating the flame to some dry chips and leaves that had been before prepared for this purpose; our breath was too weak to blow it up; but at length we had the good fortune to set fire to our principal pile, after an infinite deal of almost hopeless labour.

The horrid din which we had been used to the preceding nights, began now to strike our ears, at a distance; we felicitated each other at the sight of our bonfire, which was so necessary to our safety; and to secure ourselves still further, it was necessary to light up the other heaps of wood that

we

we had encircled the first with. We made new efforts for that purpose, we divided the toil among us, and each taking two burning faggots in our hands, set fire to the piles, one after another.

The fear we were possessed with, served to animate our minds, and supplied sufficient strength to our bodies, to execute this necessary work, in less time than I thought it possible for our exhausted powers to have effected it; and we had scarcely finished our business, when the howlings from the desert, resounded from all sides, and seemed to approach quite near to us.

I cannot resist the impulse I feel, even now, of repeating again the satisfaction and security we were sensible of, in having been able, so critically, to illuminate our *feux de joye*, as they might have been so emphatically deemed, at that instant. We had considerably augmented them, on that night,
and

and this circumstance had therefore lessened our apprehensions. However they continued still very powerful with us, because they were increased by the additional feeble state, both of our bodies and minds, occasioned by our fatigues, watchings, and severe hunger.

Even the food we had attempted, had reduced our strength still more than fasting could have done, as it but added sickness to famine, and despair to difficulty. However, before the morning's dawn we fell into a slumber, and so received relief from our very weakness.

We did not awake, 'till towards noon, and felt ourselves but little refreshed from our sleep, and miserably pressed by our sickly pains and loud calls of hunger. We looked up at the tree we had so madly fed upon, the day before, with an horror and disgust stronger still than even the rage of appetite, as it had brought us nearer

nearer death, than famine itself would have done.

We then arose to pursue our uncertain journey, in hopes of being able to meet with some sort of aliment, in our way, to recruit our sinking spirits; we made trials, as usual, on every new species of plant, root, or vegetable, we could pick up, but with as little success as heretofore; there was neither favour nor nourishment in any of them.

Our hunger increased every moment, but the hope of being able to assuage it, sustained us every step, and enabled us to travel on 'till the afternoon. We cast our eyes around, but could see nothing to rest our wearied sight upon, but a boundless and barren waste, extending on all sides. At length we arrived at a piece of rising-ground, where we expected to have a view of some fruitful spot, or hospi-

table village ; but all was as dreary as before ; nothing but an immense horizon, with the sea on the right, a forest on the left, which stretched beyond our vision, and before us a desert plain, where nothing was to be distinguished, but the traces and ordure of wild beasts.

Such an horrid prospect threw us into the most shocking state of despair ; our exhausted spirits died within us ; we no longer now thought of continuing our hopeless and uncertain route, in which we could not possibly foresee any end to our wants and miseries, except what we might have received upon the spot where we had then laid ourselves down, from death alone.

However, we again arose, and directed our steps towards the forest, in further quest of Providence : its thickness and gloom made us tremble ; the trees stood so close together, that there
were

were but few opens left for us to pass through, and we had not proceeded many yards, in some of these paths, before we found them close upon us ; while we were wound about through others, to the very place we had first entered at ; but one of them led us so far into the wood, that we soon lost our way, without hope of being ever able to recover the plain again, and with a moral certainty of being there devoured by famine, or some beast.

None of these trees afforded any sort of fruit that might have served for food, the most of them bearing only the same sort of leaves that had like to have poisoned us before. " 'Tis now
 " completely over with us, (cried I out,
 in a transport of grief,) " here must
 " we lay down our lives, our miseries
 " are within a few hours of terminat-
 " ing themselves."

I fell on the ground, as I uttered these words, Madame la Couture laid herself down by me, and the negro placed himself before us, but at a little distance. We all wept bitterly, without raising our eyes from the earth, and kept a sad silence, buried in the most horrid reflections. We each of us foresaw our immediate destruction, and had no new subject to consult or advise one another upon.

In this dismal moment the most shocking ideas pressed upon my mind. "Was there ever another mortal, (cried I out,) "in a situation so totally devoid of relief or hope, as we are?" The recollection then came across me, of some voyagers I had read of, where ships being driven out of their course, by storms, and long detained by contrary winds, in unknown seas, 'till all their provisions had been spent, the crews, after having sustained

tained their hunger to the last extremity, were reduced to the shocking necessity of butchering some one amongst them, for the support of the rest, and have cast lots for the victim.

Dare I confess it to you, my friend? your blood will run cold within you at the continuance of my recital, but do me the justice to believe that your horror cannot possibly equal mine. Observe to what excess despair and hunger joined, may transport us, and pity the necessity, rather than condemn the action, to which my miseries had now reduced me.

While the situation of these voyagers was running in my head, my roving eyes happened to fall upon the negro, though without design or direction; but they fastened themselves upon him, for some moments, with a greediness that I could not conquer, or resist.

"He is dying of famine already (said I,

M 3 "with

"with an emphasis), and to rid him
 "of his languishment must be a
 "kindness to him; he is perishing
 "piece-meal, and all our efforts can-
 "not relieve him; what then should
 "forbid my rendering his death ser-
 "viceable to those of us that may sur-
 "vive?"

This reflection, however cruel in it-
 self, did not, at that instant, shock my
 humanity. My reason was impaired,
 my mind sympathized with the weak-
 ness of my body, hunger had griped
 me in its talons, my bowels were at ci-
 vil war within; and the irresistible
 temptation of relieving myself from
 such insufferable agonies, was the only
 principle that could be listened to, in
 that dread moment.

All other means were now become
 impossible; there was but this alone
 to rest upon. My distracted soul was
 rendered incapable of consideration or
 reflection,

reflection, beyond the present evil ; it possessed me with horrid purposes, and supplied me with sufficient sophistry to justify them. "What wrong shall I be guilty of?" continued I still to argue with myself. This animal is my intire property ; I have bought him, for my sole use ; and what greater service can his whole life ever amount to, than relieving the miseries which now oppress me?"

Madame la Couture, agitated with the same inhuman ideas, seemed to overhear these last expressions ; and, though ignorant of the chain of reflections which had led to them, the sympathy of her feelings having sufficiently explained them, she called to me, in a feeble tone of voice ; and, when I looked at her, she turned her eyes upon the negro, and pointing to him with her hand, cast a look at me, so full of horror and impatience, and

finew that was necessary to complete the murder.

The unhappy wretch, recovering himself soon, had risen upon his knees, and joining his hands together, with a terrified look and dismayed accent, cried out, "What are you doing, my dear Master? Have I offended you? Have mercy on me; at least, O spare my life!"

Compassion now took the place of cruelty, and my tears fell faster than his: for the space of two minutes I stood motionless, without power to speak or resolve; but, at length, rage and hunger having stifled the voice of pity, a second look and groan from my companion in distress, recalled my former fury; I became a wolf again, a crocodile, an hyæna! And thus distracted beyond the power of reason, I fell upon the miserable wretch, pressing him under me to the ground, and roar-
ing

ing out, at the same time, to increase my frenzy, and to smother his cries, which might possibly, as before, have stopped my bloody purpose; and, tying his hands behind his back, called out to my accomplice to assist me in this barbarous execution.

She came readily on the summons, and keeping down his head, while I lay along on the rest of his body, I drew out my knife, and striking it deep into his throat, soon put an end to all further strife. I then laid the carcase across a large tree, that happened to lye on the ground near us, in order to let the blood flow the more freely, and she assisted me in this work, also.

This action, with the violent agitations of madness which we had sustained, during the perpetration of it, had quite exhausted our strength; and our reason began to return, only to load our consciences with the most bitter

ter reproaches. We then sat down upon the ground, for some time, to recover ourselves a little, with our faces turned from the shocking spectacle deprived of life, in an instant, by our cruelty.

We now reflected, with the utmost horror, on the crime we had been guilty of; then starting up, and hastening to a spring, to wash our bloody hands, which we could not look upon without the extremest terror and contrition, we lifted them up to Heaven, first falling on our knees, in fervent supplication for pardon of our inhuman deed, and daring also to prefer our prayers, at the same time, for the soul of our late departed sacrifice.

What extremes and contradictions there are in the nature of man! What an opposition of sentiment actuates us, sometimes, almost in the same instant! Piety immediately succeeded to our barbarity,

barity, and, vindicating her rights, suspending for a while, even the pressing and incessant demands of hunger. "Great God! (we jointly cried out) "thou seest our situation and intolerable miseries! These were the authors "of the murder that our hands have "been compelled to commit. Have "mercy, good Lord, on the penitence "of two unhappy wretches! Bless, "at least, the horrid meal we are about "to partake of, and suffer that food to "sustain our bodies, for which our "minds have already paid so dear." After this prayer, we rose up, lighted a large fire, and consummated, in fine, our savage action by a cannibal feast.

How have I dared to enter into such a detail as this! The sole recollection of the story shocks my memory. No, my friend, I never was a barbarian before. Alas! my
" nature

nature is far distant from cruelty or inhumanity. You know me too well to need any justification of myself to you. You should, therefore, be my only reader; and I would suppress this part of my narrative, if I thought I was ever to have any other.

What an idea would they be apt to form of my character! Of what atrocious action would they not think me capable! It is after the privation of my reason, occasioned by the severest miseries, that they would probably pretend to judge of me; few would be candid enough to take my misfortunes into the scale, and consider that both the excess, and the species of them, were heavy enough to overballance the best natural dispositions of the human heart; and that, therefore, the necessity of a sinful action

in

in such circumstances ought never to be imputed to us as a crime.

Those who have but a general acquaintance with human nature, neither know the extreme of virtue, or the excess of vice, that the soul of man is capable of, as generous occasion, or harsh necessity call forth its utmost exertion.

As soon as our pile was lighted, I cut off the head of the negro, and fastening it to the end of a stick, turned and roasted it before the fire ; but our impatience did not suffer us to wait till it was quite done ; for we began to devour it when it was but little more than warmed through. After we had thus allayed the rage of hunger, we prepared for passing the night in the place we were, and defending ourselves, as usual, against the wild beasts. We expected that their approach would prevent our sleeping,

ing, and we were not disappointed. We, therefore, employed ourselves till day-break, in cutting up the negro into quarters and joints, and hanging it in the smoke of our fire, to dry and preserve it, for want of salt.

The agonies that we had so lately been reduced to, by famine, made us dread our being exposed to the same again; we endeavoured, therefore, to make use of the best oeconomy in our power, to make our provisions hold out as long as we could. We therefore rested the next day, and the following night, on the present spot, in order to complete our housewifry; during which time we were extremely parsimonious of our aliment, eating nothing but those scraps or pieces, that we thought might soonest turn to putrefaction. We made several parcels of the rest, which we tied up in what handkerchiefs we had left, and in pieces
torn

torn off from our cloaths, which we fastened on our backs with the cordage of our float.

On the 28th of April, or thereabouts, as near as I could then compute, we set forward on our journey. The remaining so long in one place, had sufficiently reposed our limbs; the nourishment we had taken, for these two days, had repaired our strength; and the certainty of not feeling hunger for a considerable time to come, supplied us with the courage of attempting our way through the middle of the forest, which had appeared so desperate an undertaking, on our first entrance into it.

We marched forward, but with a slow pace, and bitterly regretting the loss of our former fellow-traveller, whose miserable remains we were then both incumbered with. We journeyed, for several days, with great difficulty
and

and fatigue; sometimes labouring through high bulrushes, at other times through brambles, thorns, and various kinds of prickly plants, that tore our legs, and cut our feet in such a manner as occasioned great loss of blood; to weaken us still further.

This distress, though less miserable than hunger, retarded us considerably, and the stings of the muskitos, of sand-flies, and an armed host of other winged insects, peculiar to that climate, had disfigured us so much, that it was impossible for either of us to distinguish a feature in the other; our faces, our hands, and legs being so swelled, with the venom of their bite.

In order to rid ourselves of such troublesome enemies, we thought it best to get from among the trees that harboured them, and travel along the sea-side, for the future, in hopes of meeting some kind of food there, which

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might

might enable us to spare the small stock of provisions we had now remaining; and, accordingly, at the first opening that pointed towards the right, we directed our course that way, and happily reached the shore.

We were not quite disappointed in our expectation; for, when the weather was fair and the tide out, we met with some cockles, and a few small flounders, which we hooked up out of the water, with a sort of harpoon I had made of a branch of a tree, crooked and pointed at the end. But of such food we never could procure sufficient, at any one time, for a meal; and but seldom had the good fortune to hit upon it. It was, however, some little relief to us, and for which we most gratefully returned our thanks to Providence.

I cannot give you, day by day, an account of this difficult and fatiguing journey,

journey, the end of which seemed to be still further off, the longer we travelled. The sea-reeds, which spread all along the coast, gave us as much labour to pass through, as the thorns and brambles of the forest. They were strong and dry, and numbers of them being broken by the wind, fell across, and intangled our legs, almost at every step.

The wild beasts kept us in terror, every night; to which was added the horror of our very meals, as we never eat till we had finished our journey for the day, and lighted up our fires. Our first ravenous hunger having been appeased, our minds had recovered their original tone; and we were shocked to the last degree, at being obliged to swallow such inhuman food. We never could taste a morsel of this horrid sustenance, till we were reduced to the last necessity, could meet with

no other sort of provision, and that the returning cravings of hunger had, in some measure, conquered our disgust.

One evening, when we came to our usual halt, I felt myself so extremely feeble, that I had scarce strength enough to gather sufficient wood for our principal pile; but found it utterly impossible to provide the several lesser heaps for the circle with which I always used to surround it; for my limbs were become so swelled and bloated, that I was no longer able to stand.

It happily, at the same instant, occurred to me, that I could more effectually supply this exigence, by setting fire to the reeds and broom around us, and which the wind would assist in extending on all sides. This would serve to keep the beasts at a still greater distance, and afford us likewise this further advantage, that by destroying these impediments in our way,

way, we might be enabled to pursue our future journeys, with the less delay, by marching in that road that had been cleared for us by the fire.

This scheme answered to our utmost expectation ; for, the next day, we found every obstacle of this kind removed, as far as our sight could reach, and our route marked out and cleared from all obstructions, more effectually by the fire, than a thousand pioneers could have done. This made me regret that so obvious a thought should never have occurred to me before, which would have saved us from the wounds, pain, and delays, we had hitherto suffered, and which had so greatly shortened our former marches.

But happily, in this instance, Providence kindly supplied the deficiency of my dulness, in a way peculiar to itself, which often makes

difficulties and misfortunes serve to quicken our apprehensions, and so provide relief to themselves.

We met also, on our next day's journey, with a new sort of provision, that was extremely palatable and nourishing to us. It was two rattlesnakes, whereof one had fourteen, and the other twenty-one scales, or joints, in its tail, which are said to mark their age, if it be true that one grows, every year, as is affirmed. They were very large; the fire had surrounded them when asleep, and suffocated them. Those reptiles sufficiently supplied us with fresh food, for this day and the next, having first cut off the heads where the poison lies; and we dried the remainder of them in the smoke of our fire, and added it to the rest of our viaticum*.

* Travelling provisions.

In the course of our marches, I had the luck to meet with a further addition to our provisions. One morning, I happened to spy a large cayman *, a species of the crocodile kind, of about twelve feet in length, asleep, in a pool of water near to where I passed along. I stopped immediately, to survey it; nor did the view of this monster affect me with so much terror as might naturally be imagined, though I was not ignorant how dangerous an animal it is. The only idea that struck me, at first, was, that if I could kill it, its flesh would yield us a considerable increase to our itinerant stores. I hesitated, some moments, before I attacked it; but it was not fear that stopped my hand, it was only a doubt about the surest manner of attempting it.

* This animal is more generally known by the name of *Tacare*; and breeds in the Brasils, as well as in America.

I then advanced to the verge of the lake, with my staff in my hand, which was a piece of hard heavy wood, with which I discharged three strokes on its head, as quick and forcibly as my strength and activity could enable me. This stunned the creature so much, that though it roused him, it left him neither power to spring upon me, nor to fly.

It only opened its dreadful jaws, through rage and agony, into which I immediately darted the end of my staff, that was sharp pointed, and piercing it through its throat, flaked it down to the ground, standing at the other extremity of the spear, myself, which I held bent towards me. The monster made such violent efforts, by its bounds and contortions, through pain and fury, that if my weapon had not been remarkably tough, and forced deep into the earth, it would have been

been impossible to have resisted its convulsions, and I should soon perhaps have become a victim to my rashness.

I exerted all my strength to keep it pinned down, in this manner, and was in such a position that it had been dangerous to have changed it, for the purpose of finishing its destruction; therefore I called out to Madame la Couture, who had kept aloof, from the first, intreating her to come to my assistance; but she dared not venture near enough: however she threw me a club, of between three and four foot long, which I took in one hand, while I held down the staff in the other, and soon completed my conquest over this formidable enemy.

As soon as the animal had ceased all further struggling, my companion recovering her courage, came up to me, and having both her hands at liberty, took the club from me, now
almost

almost spent, and continued the bruises, 'till she had beaten its head into a mummy; after which she severed its tail from the body.

This triumph cost me vast fatigue, hazard and labour, but sufficiently repaid my pains. We gave over all thought of pursuing our journey further, that day, as so large a carcase afforded us full employment for the rest of it, in preparing it for our travelling larder, in the same manner as we had cooked our former provisions.

We first dressed about three pounds of this animal, for our present meal, and then cut the remainder of it into small pieces, of about the same size, that they might be the sooner dried and smoaked for future use. We made shoes, such as the savages wear, of the skin, for us both, and rolled some other parts of it round our legs, like boots, to defend us from the stings of
insects

insects which had distressed us so much before; we made gloves of it too, and also masks for our faces, which tho' very troublesome, at first, yet finding them a sufficient shield against the attacks of these poisonous vermin, we became soon reconciled to the wearing of them.

These were the several uses we applied our cayman to, and the remainder of this day and the succeeding night were wholly occupied in these preparations, against our next morning's march, which we commenced as soon as dawn appeared, and the howlings ceased. We did not lay ourselves down to sleep, before we set out, as was usually our custom, but trusted to the following night for that repose which our present fatigue required. We feared to prolong our journey, by too frequent stoppings and delays, which had been already too much retarded

tarded by the short marches we had been hitherto restrained to, by the several impediments we had met with in our course.

The next day our journey was interrupted, for about an hour, by a river that ran a-cross the road into the sea. It was not broad, but it's current was extremely rapid. I tried if we could ford it, by pulling off my cloaths, and going in to found it ; but found the passage impracticable, from the depth of the water, which prevented my wading through it, and had I attempted to swim over, the violence of the stream, which no strength could stem, would have hurried me along with it into the ocean.

But had it been in my power to have got the better of these difficulties, the poor woman could not possibly have been able to encounter them. So that I returned and dressed myself,
in

in the most abject dejection of mind that can be conceived. There was then no other measure to take than to travel along by the side of the river, towards its source, and make further essays on it where we might find the current more gentle, or some shallow that might render the fording of it practicable.

We then proceeded in this direction, and continued it for two intire days, without perceiving any place that afforded us the least probability of compassing our end, for the further we went the more dangerous the attempt still appeared to be. Our inquietude and despondency increased with our difficulties, and we even began to despair of ever being able to get out of this desert.

We had not the good fortune to meet with any manner of aliment, during these two days progress, and we
were

were consequently obliged to feed upon this cayman, reserving still the unhappy negro's flesh for the last extremity, as being the food that would keep the longest. We trembled at the apprehensions of exhausting all our provisions, before we might be lucky enough to reach to any inhabited spot of the earth, where we could be able to procure a fresh supply.

Terrified at the past, distressed with the present, diffident of the future, and impatient at the obstinate continuance of our misfortunes, we passed the dismal hours in faint hopes, heavy sighs, and then closing our reflections in absolute despair. The continual view of a river always rapid, added to the weariness of our minds; the impossibility of passing it, with the necessity, however, of still marching forward, quite out of our purposed course, without the least prospect of meeting with a fordable

fordable passage, now finally damped all the spirit and courage we had yet been able to preserve through all our unexampled miseries.

Toward the latter end of the second day, while we were tracing the source of this river, I happened to turn up a tortoise, which might have weighed about ten pounds. This precious gift of Providence suspended the murmurs which used to escape us every minute before, and changed them into acclamations of gratitude. We had seen, the former day, a large hen-turkey come down and drink at the stream near us, and we concluded that it had its nest somewhere thereabouts. The hope of discovering its eggs made us search every where, for a mile or two round the place ; but in vain. This disappointment seemed to increase our misfortunes, and made us still more repine at our destiny.

But

But the luck of meeting with the tortoise reconciled us a little to fortune, and we prepared to feast upon it, directly. Our pile was formed, and I was going to set fire to it, when to my utter consternation, and inexpressible grief, I could not find the flint! I searched all my pockets, turned them out, opened all our parcels of provisions, and looked and felt in every fold of them, with the closest scrutiny. Madame la Couture assisted, and examined every thing after me again, but it all availed not.

What were our distractions! proportioned, to be sure, to our loss, our now irreparable misfortune. Did ever man sustain a greater! We then regarded the tortoise that we had just discovered with an extreme of joy, as but a common pebble, which we would then most gladly have exchanged for any flint, and given the half of our provisions

sions to boot. For how, without its assistance, could we prepare our food, guard us from the nightly cold and dews, and defend ourselves from the ravening fury of wild beasts! What a wretched couple were we two, at that instant! What a dreadful situation! If ever a guardian angel attended on human nature, its aid was necessary here!

I was certain that I could not have dropped the flint any where but in the place we had lighted up our fire, the night before, or on our road, this morning, from thence hither. Weak and weary as I was, I did not hesitate a moment, to trace my footsteps back again to the spot where our dying embers lay, to search for it; I proposed this to Madame la Couture, but left her at liberty to come along with me, or wait my return; and she determined on the latter, as she was too

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feeble,

feeble and exhausted, to be able to walk either backwards or forwards, without taking more rest than she had had, for some time past.

She trembled, however, at the idea of being left alone, but her impatience about recovering our lost treasure being fully equal to mine, she consented to my going alone, depending on my most solemn assurances of not abandoning her in so deplorable a situation, and of returning to her with the utmost speed, whether successful in my errand, or not.

We had luckily not gone far that morning; about an hour and an half's walking having been the extent of our march; it was very early in the day, and I was sure of being able to be back in the evening, long before we need set up our rest, for the night. But alas! I found this impossible; I was too weak to move fast, and be-
fides

sides I stood still, at every step of the way, to look about for the flint. I was in hopes that I had dropt it on some part of the road near where I had missed it, and that I should have the happiness to find it without being obliged to go all the way back to our last night's stage.

But I was cruelly disappointed in this surmise, and after an unprofitable search through every inch of the road we had passed this morning, I was led back again to the very spot we had halted at, night before, about the dusk of the evening, when I could hardly distinguish much larger objects than the one I was in quest of. I kneeled down on the ground, in the very spot where we had rested before, and looked and groped every where about; but in vain.

Discontented with fatiguing myself, to no purpose, I rose up and hastened

to the hearth, in hopes of meeting with some unextinguished faggot to light up another fire, which might assist me in a further search. But I found the cinders all cold, without a spark alive, in any of them.

Shocked at this new disappointment, as if it had been quite unexpected, I threw myself down on the ground, in the utmost distraction of mind, despairing to redress myself where I was, or be able to rejoin Madame la Couture, that night, and without the least thought, indeed, of attempting it; for to have stirred from the spot, without finding the flint, would have been madness; and I was therefore resolved to continue there, 'till the return of day might enable me to search for it, with better success.

I then went and lay down on a heap of fern that we had gathered for a
couch,

couch, the night before ; and it occurred to me, just at that minute, that I might more probably have dropt my flint here, than any-where else on my route ; I deliberated, for an instant, with myself, whether I should not wait till I had sufficient light to look for it. This appeared to be perfectly reasonable, as I needed every kind of assistance to find so small a substance, in the midst of so large an heap ; and to feel for it in the dark, would have been both loss of time, and rest.

These reflections were extremely rational ; but my impatience could not brook delay. I stroked my hands leisurely over every inch of the surface of the bed, but met with nothing hard beneath them. When I began to do this, I designed to have troubled myself no farther, till the morning, when I might examine every sprig of the heap, with more care, and perhaps, with success;

but my impatience still urged me on ; I immediately rose, and taking off the fern, layer after layer, shifted every handful of it through my fingers, and laid it by in another heap.

I spent most part of the night in this hopeless manner, and despaired of being ever able to find my treasure, my talisman ; when, having removed every plant of the bed, and spreading my hands all over the ground where it had lain, I at last had the rapture to lay hold of the precious article I had been so long in search of. I was so distracted with joy, that I could not contrive where about me I could guard it with the greatest safety ; and most piously vowed for the future never to suffer it to be one moment out of my sight, or feeling, or thought.

During all this while you may well imagine the terror I must have undergone, of the wild beasts ; I had heard
 2 their

their hideous yells for a considerable time before ; but it seemed to be at a far greater distance than usual. I was in dread not only for myself, but for my miserable companion too, who was left alone, and whose horror must be extremely augmented by the darkness of the night. I, therefore, purposed immediately to return to her, if possible, to comfort and defend her ; but confess that my fear of meeting with some misadventure on the way, held my mind a long time in suspense ; and, in order to excuse the want of heroism in myself, upon that occasion, I considered that the conflagration I had spread all along the road we had travelled, for three nights past, and which had blazed far and wide about the country, must have frightened the wild animals to a safe distance from our route ; and, in reality, since the first time of this lucky expedient, they had

never ventured within the reach of our longest sight ; and their howlings did not strike our ears, but by their echos only.

And yet this very reflection, in which I had made an apology for my cowardice, served to rouse my courage again. If there be little danger for her, there can be less for me. Upon this soliloquy I set out forthwith ; but travelled, however, every step of the way, in fear and trembling, and was frequently tempted to stop and light a fire, in my own defence. Panics are apt to remain, especially in weak nerves, as mine then were, for some time after our reason has recovered from the fright.

I continued, however, my march in the dark, without interruption or delay ; for fear had lent me speed : and, notwithstanding my feeble state of body, I reached the spot where Madame

dame la Couture had crouched herself down, about two hours before day. I had like to have passed her by, as the obscurity of the night, and the apprehensions I still laboured under, had rendered it impossible for me to mark the place I had left her in ; but an heavy sigh that reached my ear, and which, at first made me start, informed me, that I was near her. She had heard the sound of my feet, just at that instant, and, fearing it to proceed from the motion of some wild beast, coming to devour her, she luckily sent forth that moan which had stopped me on my march forward.

I called out to her, with a loud
 “ voice, Is it you, Madam?” “ Yes,
 “ O yes ! (she replied, in an almost
 “ fainting tone.) Good God ! how you
 “ have alarmed me, and what a miserable
 “ age of time has your departure
 “ and delay occasioned me to undergo !
 “ Have

" Have you heard these horrid howl-
 " ings? They have not ceased a mo-
 " ment since the night commenced;
 " and as I did not find you return
 " when I had reason to expect you, I
 " concluded, for a certainty, that you
 " had been devoured by the wild beasts;
 " and that it was impossible for me to
 " survive you long."

" I am yet alive, thank God! (I
 " cried) and I have the happiness to
 " find you so likewise; we are more
 " than repaid for all our fears and fa-
 " tigue; I have recovered my flint; let
 " us immediately then set about making
 " a comfortable fire, before which we
 " may first take refreshment, and then
 " repose."

At these words we searched about for
 what sticks and dry leaves were near
 at hand, and, gathering them into a
 heap together, soon lighted it up. A
 fragment of my shirt, that was worn
 almost

almost to lint, served me for tinder, as it had done often before; though I sometimes obliged Madame la Couture to furnish her quota too, upon such occasions.

When we had lighted up a large fire, we broiled some of our tortoise, which we thought extremely sweet and juicy. We found a number of small eggs, when we opened the body of it, which we roasted on some hot cinders, and which supplied us with an wholesome and refreshing meal, that was of infinite service to us. We then ventured to lye down to sleep and rest, which we had the good fortune to indulge in, for about five hours, recruited our powers, both of body and mind.

On our awakening, we consulted together, whether we should continue the route we had taken, any further, or not. On considering the river, whose
course

course was continued in a direct line, till it stretched beyond our view, we despaired of being able, during many days journey, to find a fordable passage across; we, therefore, determined on attempting to get over, in the very spot where we then stood.

What encouraged us, at this time, was the observing half a dozen of old leafless trees, brought down by the stream, and which had been stopped in their course, near the bank, by another that the wind had bent down into the river. This timber appeared to be sufficient for the framing a raft that might be able to carry us safely to the opposite side.

I then took off my cloaths, and waded into the water, which was not very deep near the margin; and, fastening four of these trees together, which I thought might answer the purpose, by means of the rinds that I peeled off,

for this use, I drew them close to the brink, and fixed also a long staff to the end of the float, which might serve me occasionally, either for oar or rudder.

This work being finished, we prepared ourselves for setting out directly; we stripped ourselves naked, and made a compact bundle of our cloaths, which we fastened together with some more of the tough bark, with which I had bound the trees. We used this precaution, in order to be the less incumbered with them, if we should happen to be cast away; and, by tying up our wretched habiliments, in one parcel, I might be the better able to have towed them along, if I should be reduced to the necessity of swimming on shore again. The event shewed the prudence of such precautions.

The necessity of the circumstances to which Madame la Couture and I were by this time reduced; rendered all regard

gard to the decency of appearances, a matter below our attention ; we had, I dare pronounce, throughout all our troubles, never considered each other as of different sexes : I saw in her, nothing but the natural feebleness of a woman ; nor did she reflect upon any thing in me, but that resolution and courage with which I had endeavoured to inspire her, and those assistances which my superior strength had impowered me to afford her. All other sentiments were dead within us ; and exhausted nature, now grown indifferent to every other object, solicited us but for food alone.

Our apprehension about the accidents which might befall us, on this new adventure, would not suffer us to detach ourselves from our provisions, as we had done from our cloaths ; the loss of these could not be so fatal to us, as the want of the former : we, therefore,
opened

opened our parcels, and disposed them in such a manner as enabled us to fasten them round our bodies, with the least inconvenience or incumbrance to us, being resolved to save them with ourselves, or perish along with them.

We then embarked on our raft, which I launched into the river, and endeavoured to guide, as well as I could, with my perch; but the current hurried us away with a rapidity that made me tremble, as I thought it impossible to be able to stem the torrent, till it had delivered us into the sea: however, after infinite labour and address, by humouring the course of the water for many yards in length, to gain an inch in the breadth, we at last got about half way across, and was in hopes that, by such repeated efforts and compliances, we might possibly complete our traverse alive.

We

We were now in the middle of the river, where the force of the current was strongest, when we were dashed against the trunk of a tree, that happened to be bent down across the water; and the shock was so violent that it broke all the ligaments of the raft asunder; the timber separated, and we were plunged at once into the flood, where we should infallibly have been both drowned, if I had not been quick enough to seize hold of a branch of the tree, with one hand, and of Madame la Couture's hair, by the other, just as she was sinking down, probably for ever.

The top of her head only appeared above water, I pulled her toward me, and as she had not been quite deprived of her senses, I called to her to strike out with her legs and arms, to help me to sustain her. I then assisted her to clamber up on the stem of the tree,
the

the root of which being fixed in the opposite bank, I assisted her to reach the shore, at last, in safety.

I immediately unburdened myself of my load of provisions, which I laid down by her, and returned to the river, to see what was become of our bundle of cloaths, which I perceived intangled among the branches of the tree that had been equally the cause of our wreck and safety; but the agitation of the water had just then disengaged and delivered it to the current, at the very instant I had plunged in to recover it, which I had the good fortune to do, though not without a great deal of fatigue and difficulty.

I gave the parcel into the care of Madame la Couture, to open, wring, and spread out before the sun, while I set about making a fire, to dry our cloaths more quickly, and to dress part of the tortoise we had brought over

P

with

with us ; for we were so fortunate not to lose any thing by being overfet, except the raft, which could now have been of no further service to us.

After having put on our cloaths, and refreshed ourselves with a good meal, we took care to dry the rest of our provisions, before the fire ; which work gave us sufficient employment for the remainder of that day. We passed the night in this place, with the usual precautions ; and, the next morning, being much recruited by food and sleep, we set forward towards St. Marc, in the Apalachian mountains, bearing our course eastward, as much as we could, and trembling every step of the way, for fear of mistaking our road.

A wood that we met with in our course, we found it almost impracticable to pass through, on account of the strong reeds and briars it was
choaked

choaked up with ; for the sort of shoes, buskins, gloves, and masks, we had made out of the cayman's skin, had been quite worn out, by this time, and finally melted into pap, by their late soaking in the water ; so that our feet and legs suffered severely from the thorns and brambles, while our hands and faces were exposed to the muskitos, sandflies, and wasps, as before, whose poisonous bites and stings soon swelled our bodies to an enormous size.—Besides which grievances, we met with a less supply of sustenance here, than on the other side of the river, and what yet remained of our negro and the cayman, were our only support.

We struggled, for many days, thro' all these difficulties, which were augmented still by repeated sufferings, both of mind and body. No longer did fond hope sustain our drooping spi-

rits, with expectations flattering, tho' vain; all distinction of our limbs and features was lost, and we resembled moving tuns, rather than human creatures. We marched heavily along, hardly able to set one foot before the other; and when we sat down to rest, it required our utmost efforts to raise ourselves from the ground again. In fine, we were now sunk to the lowest abyss of misery and despair.

Madame la Couture supported her strength and spirits longer than I did. While my powers remained, I had been sparing of hers, and had taken every labour and fatigue upon myself that her assistance was not immediately necessary to. Her mind too had been always more at rest than mine; because she acquiesced generally in the exertions of my forecast, and endeavours. All the difficulties of our situation and circumstances had hitherto rested chiefly

ly on me ; but the weight of our misfortunes became, at last, too heavy for my strength, or rather weakness, to support.

One day, not being able to stir one step farther, totally debilitated, and almost deprived of sight by the blisters which the venom of the insects had raised about my eyes, I laid myself down on the shore, which we had then reached, about an hundred yards from the sea ; and, after reposing my limbs for an hour, beneath a spreading tree, I attempted to rise again, with a purpose of continuing our march ; but in vain. I felt as if the earth I pressed had been heaped upon me.

“ ’Tis over with me now, (said I, to my companion) ; here must I remain for ever ; my grave encompasses me ; this spot is, at length, the final end of my journey, of my misfortunes, and my life. Avail yourself of

“ what powers you have yet remain-
 “ ing, to hasten forward to some in-
 “ habited part of the country ; carry
 “ with you whatever provisions we have
 “ left, and do not idly spend them in
 “ waiting longer here with me ; I see
 “ that fate has opposed my farther
 “ progress, and feel my dissolution be-
 “ ginning, from this moment ; the abi-
 “ lity which still remains to you, shews
 “ that it is more favourably inclined to-
 “ wards you : take then the advantage
 “ of its kindness, and reflect sometimes
 “ with tenderness on the unfortunate
 “ associate of your miseries, who has
 “ exhausted his every faculty in aiding
 “ and relieving you, and who would
 “ never have remitted his cares for
 “ your preservation, if he had been
 “ able to accompany you any longer,
 “ or had it any otherwise in his power
 “ to lessen your distress. Let us resign
 “ ourselves to the severe necessity which
 “ imposes

"imposes so cruel a law upon us both:
 "farewel, depart on the instant, struggle
 "gle still for life; and when you may
 "rejoice in happier days, forgetting in
 "abundance the wants you have so
 "long endured, remember only that
 "you have lost a friend amidst the de-
 "serts of America. You will, soon, I
 "hope, be able to reach some spot
 "where Europeans may be met with,
 "from whence you may have the
 "opportunity of vessels returning to
 "France, by which I intreat that you
 "will render me the only kind office
 "that remains yet in your power, by
 "sending an account of the unfortu-
 "nate Viaud, to my relations, telling
 "them that I am, at length, released
 "from misery, and desiring them to
 "divide the small remainder of my ef-
 "fects, among them, without the most
 "distant idea of my ever being in a
 "condi-

"condition to redemand them. Bid
 "them pity and pray for me."

Madame la Couture could only answer me with tears and moans; her sensibility affected me; 'tis a consolation to the unhappy to see themselves the objects of compassion. She took my hands between hers, and pressed them with the utmost tenderness, while I continued to persuade her to our separation, urging the absolute necessity of it, in vain. "No, my dear friend," (said she) "I will not abandon you; I will still render you, as far as my powers will permit, the assistance I owe you, and which I have received so long from you already. Exert your spirits, and your strength may return again. If my hopes should deceive me, it will not be then too late to expose myself, helpless and alone, in this vast desert, accompanied

"nied

"nied only by my fears, and dread-
 "ing, every moment, that offended
 "Heaven might let loose the savage
 "beasts to devour me, as a just punish-
 "ishment for having forsaken you,
 "while there remained the least possi-
 "bility of affording you any man-
 "ner of relief. As to our provisions,
 "we will endeavour still to husband
 "them with the best oeconomy we may ;
 "and I will now go in search on the bor-
 "ders of the sea, for some fresher
 "nourishment, which may possibly
 "recruit your strength once more. I
 "devote myself, from this moment,
 "wholly to your service ; and, in order
 "to defend you from the insects which
 "would have more power over you, in
 "your present helpless condition, I
 "shall leave you covered up intirely
 "with this garment."

She then took off one of her petty-
 coats, of which she had but two, and
 cutting

cutting it afunder with my knife, spread one half of it over my legs, and the other on my arms and face, which perfectly fecured me from the attacks of thofe venomous animals that were then buzzing all around me. After this kind precaution, ſhe lighted up a fire, and immediately retired towards the ſea-ſhore.

She returned ſoon again, with a tortoiſe in her hand ; of which the firſt uſe I made, was to waſh my ſtings and bliſters in its warm blood, as I imagined it allayed the heat and ſwelling. I recommended the ſame medicine to Madame la Couture, which ſhe readily partook of, as ſhe was as much diſtreſſed with the bites of theſe infects as I was. We then compoſed ourſelves to reſt, for ſome time, but my weakneſs was not relieved ; and I found myſelf growing ſo much worſe, after I awoke, that I had reaſon to conclude I had not many hours to ſurvive.

A large hen-turkey that sprung just in view, at that time, and ran into a coppice near us, gave us hopes that she was going to brood, and that we might be able to rob her nest of the eggs, which might be a great refreshment to us in our present circumstances. Madame la Couture undertook the office of provedore, on this occasion, as I was totally unable to raise myself from the ground ; and was, therefore, left behind, lying stretched before the fire.

I remained in that situation, for about three hours ; the sun was near setting ; I was in a state of torpid insensibility, without motion, and almost deprived of all reflection, like a person between sleeping and waking ; a total numbness had seized my lethargic limbs ; I felt no pain, but a certain listlessness and uncomfortable sensation affected my whole body.

About

About the time I mention, I was roused from my mortal doze, by the sound of some shrill voices, which awakened my attention ; I listened with dread, and they seemed to have come from the sea-side. I concluded that they must have proceeded from some savages, who were marching along the coast, near the place I lay.

“ Good God! (I cried out) have you determined on this moment for the crisis of my destiny ? Have you sent these barbarians hither to put an end to my miseries, either by their cruelty or kindness ? Whatever you ordain I resign myself to, without a murmur. Destroy or succour me ; I shall either way be relieved, and shall equally adore and submit myself to thy providence.”

The voices were repeated several times, and a ray of hope began to beam on my mind ; I endeavoured to raise myself

myself up; and, after many efforts, conquered my weakness so far as to be able to sit on the ground; but this cruel reflection began to lessen my triumph in this advantage. Perhaps, thought I, the persons I hear are sailing on the sea, and bound to some distant coast; they can know nothing of me, unless they land near this place; and then how much more wretched must this disappointed hope still render me! In the helpless state I am at present, how is it possible for me to convey the least knowledge to them that there lies a miserable person here, who is in the last need of their humanity and assistance!

This thought threw me into the utmost despondency; I strove to hail them, but my voice failed me; the dread, however, of missing the only resource that had presented itself to us for so long a time, served to restore

part

part of my powers, which I made use of to creep upon my hands and knees, as near the shore as I could. I could then distinctly perceive a large boat which rowed along near the coast, and had not yet passed by; I raised myself then on my knees, and waving my cap, to and fro, as high as I could reach, I made signals that I was obliged often to interrupt, as my weakness did not suffer me to hold up my arm long enough, and made me fall flat again on my face.

How much did I regret the absence of Madame la Couture, during this anxious interval! She was able to have run down to the sea-side, to have called out, to have beseeched their succour, and to have summoned their attention; but she was certainly then at too great a distance to hear the sound of their voices, or she would soon have appeared in view.

In

In her stead I thought of every possible method of rendering myself visible; I happened to perceive a long branch of a tree, within my reach, which I made use of to raise my cap upon, to which I fastened a part of the petticoat that my companion in misery had lent me, as before related; and this kind of floating ensign was at last happily taken notice of by the persons who were in the vessel; which I soon perceived, by the sudden shout they set up, and by their quitting their former course, and steering in directly to the shore.

I immediately struck my perch into the ground, that they might not lose sight of the signal, and endeavoured to creep towards the strand, where I lay stretched along, fatigued with my efforts, but exulting in prospect of an approaching deliverance, and putting up most grateful and fervent eja-

culations to Providence for its goodness towards me.

On looking attentively at the boat, I had the transport to discover that the passengers in it wore cloaths, which afforded me the comfort of concluding them to be Europeans, and not any of the savages of the country, which relieved me from the apprehensions I had laboured under from the first.

While I was waiting for their landing, I cast my eyes all about, in search of Madame la Couture, whom I was impatient to see that I might have the pleasure of acquainting her with the happy event which had arrived to our relief, and which she might be an equal sharer in. I felt my good fortune but by halves, without her participation of it. The tender cares she had bestowed on me, and her resolving not to abandon me, had rivetted the friendship that had before attached me to her, and

and which our common misfortunes had given birth to.

She appeared not in view, all this while, and this was the only uneasiness I was sensible of, during that interval; but this delay did not affect my mind very considerably, as I looked upon her deliverance to be as real, as if she had been present; and that she could not be long enough absent to miss the opportunity, as it grew now late; and the falling of the night must certainly warn her to return.

The boat at length arrived to shore; the crew landed, and came up to me; the excess of my joy, in seeing them so near me, had like to have been fatal to me; it threw me into a swoon, for some minutes, which rendered me incapable of speaking one word, in answer to the several questions they asked me.

Q

A cup

A cup of taffia, which they poured down my throat, revived my spirits, and enabled me to express my gratitude, and to acquaint them in a few words of the miseries of my situation; which indeed they were sufficiently able to guess at themselves, on the first view of me, and therefore restrained me from entering into any of the particulars of it. While I was satisfied in finding them to be Europeans, though judging by their manner of answering me in French, that they were not of that nation, yet I never thought of asking them what countrymen they were, as this information was a matter of but very little consequence; it being sufficient for me that I was fallen into the hands of civilized persons, and that I thought I might depend upon their assistance.

I intreated them to hoop and halloo through the coppice, near us,
whither

whither Madame la Couture had gone in quest of the turkey-hen, in hopes she might be able to hear the chearful sound of human voices, once more, and be brought back again to a place of safety and comfort. This had its effect ; she appeared, on the summons, and my happiness was now complete.

I saw her running towards us with the utmost exertion of her speed, with the turkey and her nest, which she had the good fortune to make a prize of. " My dear friend, cried I, in rapture, " these provisions are come most luckily, at present, to treat those kind deliverers whom the mercy of God has sent so opportunely to our relief. Rejoice with me. Providence never forsakes the just ; and your generous compassion towards me has been sufficiently recompensed."

As the night was now come on, it was not thought proper to embark,

'till the morning. I then learned that it was the 6th of May, for 'till that time I could not be certain of the dates that passed. We all gathered round my fire, to which our new friends were so kind to carry me; we supped on the turkey and her eggs, to which they added some pickled pork, and a flask or too of taffia. This repast was doubtless the most chearful of any I had ever enjoyed, since our shipwreck; content of mind helped to relieve the weakness of our bodies, and I began soon to feel my health and strength returning.

Our guests informed us that they were English, the principal of whom was an officer of infantry, in the service of his Britannic majesty, whose name was Wright. I entertained him after supper, with an account of our extraordinary hardships and adventures; and I observed him frequently
 moved

moved at the miseries we had been reduced to, but he was more particularly shocked at the necessity which had constrained us to seek our preservation in the sacrifice of my wretched negro. He then desired to look at what remained of this cannibal food, and curiosity tempted him to taste a morsel of it, which he immediately spit out of his mouth, with the utmost disgust, and pitied us extremely for having been obliged to sustain ourselves on so disagreeable and unnatural an aliment.

I observed occasionally that there was only the officer, and one of his soldiers, who understood French; and that all the rest of the crew were impatient to learn the particulars of my story. I thought I could never do too much for such friends; therefore I related them over again, in English, which I was enabled to do, by having been twice taken prisoner, in the last

war, and confined in Britain, long enough to learn the language sufficiently to render myself intelligible to my deliverers, whose good will I further attached to me by such a compliance.

After I had finished my recital, I inquired from Mr. Wright, in my turn, to what lucky chance we owed the good fortune of his opportune succour? He informed me that he belonged to a detachment stationed at St. Marks, in the Apalachian mountains, commanded by Mr. Swettenham; that some days before a savage having reported that he had found a man dead on the shore, who by some remains of his cloaths seemed to have been an European; that his face and belly were wanting, and he appeared to have been devoured by some wild beast; Mr. Swettenham, upon this account, had sent him off, with an interpreter, and four soldiers, to traverse the coast, and
afford

afford relief to every distressed person they might meet with in their way. To which he added, that his superior having observed the stormy weather, that had continued some time, was in apprehension that a brigantine, which he was in expectation of from Passacola, freighted with provisions for the garrison, had been cast away.

I doubted not but that the corpse seen by the savage, and which had been the occasion of Mr. Wright's lucky cruise, must have been one of our poor lost friends, either Monsieur la Couture, or Monsieur Desclau. They had been both drowned, for a certainty; one of their bodies might have been devoured in the sea, by a cayman, and the other thrown upon the shore, by the agitation of the waves; at least we have not received any manner of account about them, ever since.

After we had entertained each other in this manner, for some time, we composed ourselves to rest, but were soon roused again from our sleep, by a violent storm, that arose in the middle of the night. The rain, wind, thunder and lightning, ceased not, for an instant, 'till morning. This tempest disturbed our new guests, much more than it did Madame la Couture or me, who had been so much longer used to such alarms; and besides they affected us less, as we were already possessed of a relief to all our dangers and our cares. The sense of our misfortunes were not near so poignant, since we were so happily arrived within view of their end; our weakness and our wounds oppressed us less, and seemed but slight temporary ills, which a little care and repose would soon remedy.

Towards

Towards the dawn of day the storm abated, and by sun-rise a perfect calm succeeded. We then prepared to embark, and my spirits were so much restored, that I thought myself able enough to get into the boat, without any manner of assistance, which I was going to attempt; but Mr. Wright would not permit it, and ordered me to be carried aboard, saying, "I wish
 "you joy of your seeming recovery,
 "but you ought not to presume too
 "much on it; husband your strength,
 "as well as you can, to serve you up-
 "on more necessary occasions."

Madame la Couture walked by my side to the boat, looking at me all the way, with a sincere and lively joy in her eyes; "Reflect, now, (said she,) whe-
 "ther I was not in the right to abide
 "still with you, notwithstanding your
 "generous dismissal of my service; we
 "are both of us, thank God, alive,
 "and

"and in a state to enjoy the blessing
 "of life, without danger, or remorse.
 "How wretched should I be, even in
 "my present circumstances, if by o-
 "beying your pressing instances, I
 "had met with this deliverance, with-
 "out being able to have shared it with
 "you !"

When I had got into the boat, I re-
 signed myself intirely to repose, as
 having now no other care upon my
 mind, and Mr. Wright thought of
 putting an end to his expedition. He
 had already traversed all the isles, but
 one, and proceeded now toward that,
 in his tour back to St. Mark. We ar-
 rived there after about twelve hours sail
 with a favourable gale ; and I recol-
 lected it to be the one whence Ma-
 dame la Couture and I had departed
 together, and where her son had been
 left to expire.

The

The miseries I had endured, every moment, since that event, had afforded me but little leisure to reflect upon his situation ; but my return to the very spot again, affected my mind so strongly towards him, that I let fall many tears to the dear boy's memory.

In the midst of my regret for his loss, I remembered that he was not quite dead when I took my leave of him : this reflection roused me ; and that he might be yet alive, and in a state to benefit from our succour, was an idea that flattered my mind surprisingly. In vain did reason and probability oppose the notion, as a thing impossible ; they could not prevail on me to quit the place, without coming to some certainty about so interesting a fact. Accordingly I prevailed on Mr. Wright to suffer us to sail quite round the island, while the soldiers were exerting
the

the utmost stretch of their lungs, in hallooing and calling out *La Couture*, at frequent intervals; but no answer was returned.

This silence, however, neither baffled my hopes, nor lulled to rest a certain secret impulse, which pressed me inwardly, all the while. The poor young man might be still in a state to have heard the voices, but not in a condition of responding to them. I recollected my own situation, in this particular, the day before; and how much more deplorable must his be, if he was still alive! In fine, the excess of my anxiety, impatience, and fond hope, became quite ungovernable, at last.

I communicated my thoughts and feelings to Mr. Wright, who, after having represented to me the fruitlessness of the delay which such an inquiry might occasion, had the complaisance and humanity, however, no longer to
oppose

oppose his reason to my ravings ; but steering directly to shore, sent a soldier to the place I pointed out to him, as I was not able to walk thither myself, and directed him to bring us a speedy account of the state he should find the young man in.

This messenger returned to us, in about half a quarter of an hour, with a report that he had seen the body, and found it dead ; upon which Mr. Wright ordered the soldier aboard, and prepared to tack about for St. Mark's. But I crept towards him, and raising my self on my knees, said, " Dear Sir, " I must undoubtedly appear very " troublesome and unreasonable to " you, in the whole of this affair ; but " I have still one request more to solicit " you for, with regard to it.

" This young man (continued I), was " dear, both to his mother and to " me : his generous fortitude alone pre-

“prevailed on us to leave this island; I,
 “therefore, owe him whatever return of
 “gratitude may be in my power; he is
 “now, alas! beyond the reach of every
 “duty of humanity, except the last:
 “suffer me, then, to discharge that debt,
 “by allowing me time just to step on
 “shore, and enter the body, with as
 “much decency as our present hur-
 “ry and circumstances may permit.”

Mr. Wright, who continued to be-
 have with remarkable tenderness and
 indulgence towards me, yielded to
 this request, also, and ordered all his
 men to attend and carry me to the
 corpse. Madame la Couture would, like-
 wise, perform her part in this pious office:
 “My unhappy child (said she, with an
 “heavy sigh), has followed his dear fa-
 “ther to the grave, and his mother
 “cannot long survive them. The deliver-
 “ance I have met with, has come, alas!
 “too late, since I cannot partake the be-
 “nefit of it, with either of them.”

We all came together, to the place where the young man lay stretched at length on the ground, with his face to the earth; his skin was all parched with the sun and wind; he sent forth a putrid smell, like a body that had lain too long unburied; and the worms had already taken possession of his legs and thighs. In fine, he was become an object offensive to the senses, and shocking to humanity.

I kneeled down, in prayer, while the soldiers were digging his grave, which, when it was finished, they came to take the body and lay it in. But what was their surprize, mine, and his mother's, when one of the men who had laid his hand under his breast, in order to raise him up, cried out that he felt him still warm, and perceived his heart yet in motion; and I saw one of his legs, at the same time, draw it-
self

self up, as soon as another of the soldiers put his hand to it!

On the instant we all of us exerted our utmost endeavours to render him every manner of assistance, in our power; we forced some taffia, mixed with fresh water, down his throat, and made use of the same lotion to wash and cleanse the wounds in his limbs, from which we picked out a great many worms, that had formed their nests there, and were devouring him piecemeal.

Madame la Couture, rendered motionless, at first, with astonishment, became soon transported from the extremes of despair to hope, from grief to joy; and, finding that her dear child, whose death she had been certain of the moment before, still breathed, continued for some minutes to distrust her senses, crying out, in a kind of

of delirium, "Is it possible, great
 "God! O, my friends, do not impose
 "on me; give me certain conviction
 "of this miracle, and do not sport with
 "my distraction, by possessing my
 "mind with false hopes, that are only
 "to end in the most cruel of disap-
 "pointments!"

After this exclamation, she ran to
 her son, threw herself on the ground
 by him, examined his breast, his heart,
 his pulse; then looking sharply in the
 countenances of those who stood round
 her, in order to pry into their senti-
 ments about his condition, she turned
 again to him, caught him in her arms,
 and endeavoured to warm him into
 life, by her kisses and embraces, till we
 were obliged to force her away, lest the
 violence of her emotions might possi-
 bly have disappointed the very purpose
 intended by them, and have prevented
 us from supplying those assistances

R

which

which we thought more likely to produce the happy effect we so much wished and laboured to obtain. I was so little able to administer any manner of help myself, upon this occasion, that I sat still on the ground, and held her down by me; saying every thing I could, to encourage her hopes, and restrain her agitations. She listened to me with impatience, keeping her eyes constantly fixed on her son, and starting up so often to run to him, that my strength was almost exhausted in withholding her from interrupting the operations that were necessary for the recovery of our patient.

“Have but a moment’s calmness
 “(said I to her); suffer these generous
 “Englishmen to take their own way;
 “your interposing may impede, perhaps
 “totally prevent the success of
 “their endeavours.” “I think so too
 “(she would reply); I will take your
 “advice,

"advice, and sit still." In a moment after, she would attempt to escape me; I again exhorted her to remain quiet, repeated the same reasons, and reminded her of the promise she had just given me, not to stir. "I remember it," she cried, "I confess the breach of my word, and acknowledge the impropriety and hazard of my conduct; but, my dear Viaud, I have not the least command over myself, and am certain that I should perfectly recover my reason, if I was suffered to see my dear son again, for an instant, a single instant. Why do you restrain me then? This must be a mere savage cruelty in you. Oh! if you knew what it was to be a mother! Had you ever a child, in your life?" Then, without waiting for an answer, she would ask me many other questions, in a breath; as, what my opinion was of the business in agitation; whether I had conceived any

hope of her son's recovering, &c. but not in the least attending to my replies ; and, all the while, endeavouring to get herself loose from my hold.

At length Mr. Wright ran to acquaint us that the young man had been recovered to his senses ; that he had opened his eyes, wept much, stared at the strange faces he saw about him, had asked where his mother was ; and what became of me, also. When we appeared before him, he knew us both, at once. " You are here still, then, " (said he, with the feeblest voice ;) " is it " possible that you should have remained here so long ! I have not seen " either of you for a considerable time ; " tell me where you have been, all this " while ? "

This was neither time nor place to give any account of our absence ; we, therefore only replied, that we were then happily arrived to save his life, and

and relieve his miseries, and exhorted him to take courage, and be of good cheer, in order to assist towards his own recovery. We had him then carried into the boat, where I laid him down upon some of the soldiers cloaths, which they were so humane to lend us; I covered him over with a blanket, and stretched myself close by his couch, in order to take care of him, throughout the voyage. His mother lay on the other side, and I had infinite trouble in defending him from her extravagant fondness, and fatiguing caresses.

As it was late, we made but little way that evening; and went on shore again, at the further extremity of the island, to pass the night there. The soldiers gave chase to some bustards they happened to spring, on their landing, and brought us three of them time enough to have them dressed for sup-

per. Our patient eat a little of them, and slept foundly till the next morning.

The following day he found himself much recruited, but rather more in his mind than body; for he was now come perfectly to himself, and he had raved, by intervals, before. However, he could not recollect any thing that passed since our departure, except that he had often fainted; and that, between the fits he had been sensible of extreme hunger and thirst, and had refreshed himself with the oysters and water we had left within his reach, while they lasted; but was so weak, that he could not stretch out his hand to supply his wants, and was forced to trail himself along on his belly, and feed, like a reptile, prone on the ground. He was not capable of computing how long he had been left alone, and it seemed to him as if we had

had not yet ventured on our raft, but had met with all the succour we brought him, just as we were preparing to set out. We did not care to undeceive him, at that time *.

But the possibility of his being able to have existed so long, in the state I had left him, was a subject of astonishment to us ; for had it been only a fact related, we should none of us have had faith enough to have given credit to such an improbable story. We had quitted the island, on the 19th of April, and it was now the 7th of May, when we returned to it again ; which comprehended an interval, of nineteen

* The writer seems to contradict himself, a little, in this place ; for, just before, the invalid is said to have been surprised how they could have remained so long in the island, without returning to take some further care of him ; so that he appears to have had a better notion of the interval, at first, than now. But, 'tis probable that Mr. Viaud might have only transposed these circumstances, in the hurry of his recital.

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days,

days, that he had subsisted, as it were,
 by miracle alone. The hand of Providence
 was evident in his preservation ;
 and this reflection affected Madame la
 Couture so strongly, that throwing
 herself on her knees ; " Merciful God !
 " (cried she out,) thou hast renewed the
 " life of my son ; thou hast lent him
 " to me, even beyond my hopes ! O
 " spare him to me still ! Complete thy
 " bounty, and grant me, even in this
 " world, this only recompence for all
 " the miseries I have already sustained !
 " But if thou wilt take him to thyself,
 " if thou hast only respited his doom,
 " to afford me this short gleam of joy !
 " O inspire me with fortitude sufficient
 " to support myself under this last, this
 " worst of misfortunes, or suffer me to
 " feel the stroke of fate, along with
 " him." I joined in her prayer, but was
 full of hopes, all the while, about
 her son.

We

We embarked again, that morning, for St. Mark's, and the wind was quite favourable to us, during the passage. I was convinced, from the observations I made, as we sailed along, that, without the assistance of our good English friends, I should never have been able to have reached thither, by land. This place is fifteen leagues from that part of the continent whence we embarked. The very length of the journey, then, was infinitely more than we could have ever conquered, in our circumstances at that time; besides, the number of large, deep, and rapid rivers, which crossed our way, as I could very well judge, by the several currents I saw disembogue themselves into the sea, as we coasted thither.

What unfurmountable obstacles must these have been, in our then state of weakness! How often must we have been forced out of the compass-line of
our

our direction, to travel up the sides of these rivers, through pathless deserts, as before, in search of some fordable passage ! And what a number of leagues must these circumviations have added to our journey ! But these things are beyond our power to compute ; and the only one we can be certain of, at present, is, that it had been impossible for us to have ever overcome these difficulties ; and that we must have perished with hunger or fatigue, in a very few days, in making the attempt.

That same day, the 8th of May, we all happily arrived at St. Mark's, about seven o'clock in the evening, and Mr. Swettenham received us with the utmost humanity ; he had me carried home to his own house, where, having but one bed, he generously shared it with me ; he lodged Madame la Couture and her son in his corporal's apartments, accommodating them with
sheets

sheets and blankets himself. His surgeon was immediately ordered to attend us all, and supply us with every medicine that might conduce toward our recovery. In fine, there was no care neglected, nor article forgotten, which was necessary, either to our comfort, or relief.

Our good fortune had delivered us into the hands of a generous and benevolent man, whose kindness we experienced in every instance. What would have been our condition if we had met with a person of less sensibility, who thinking he had sufficiently answered the duties of humanity, in bringing us out of the desert, had left us to shift for ourselves, with regard to all other necessaries!

But it was time that we should have met with an end to our sufferings; they had commenced, in a shocking manner, the 16th of February, 1766, when

when we were shipwrecked, and had continued till the 7th of May, following, comprehending just fourscore and one days. What a century did it appear, to us ! Through how many miseries had we passed, during that unhappy interval ! What persons in the world were ever so wretched, for the time.

It was not, therefore, extraordinary that our constitutions should have been broken ; the surprize must certainly be much greater that they were able to have supported themselves at all under such severe trials ; and that we should ever have recovered our minds and healths again. However our situation was critical, for several days ; our bodies were swelled and inflamed extremely ; and the surgeon who attended us had very little hopes of our lives, at first. But rest and proper nourishment, taken in small portions, at a time,

a time, restored us, by degrees, and repaired those ails which hunger and unwholesome diet had afflicted us with. At length, the tenderness and skill with which we were nursed and doctored, had their salutary effect on me, as also on the young man, whose case was by much the most dangerous ; but his mother recruited her strength much sooner than either of us.

I remained thirteen days in the fort, during which time I learned, from a chief of one of the savage clans, who brought dispatches to Mr. Swettenham, from the English governor at Passacola, an account of the villain Antonio, and the eight mariners whom we had been forced to leave behind us, in the first island he had brought us all together to. These unhappy men, after having waited a considerable time, in vain, for the return of the savage, and concluding, from former experience

ence of his infidelity, that he meant to leave them there to perish for want; grew into a rage of resentment against him, but in this frenzy most cruelly revenged themselves in the wrong place, by killing his mother, his sister and his nephew, in their sleep. By this means, indeed, they got possession of their fire-arms, ammunition, and canoe; but this they were strong enough to have done, without a murder. In despair, the exigence may, perhaps,—I speak with diffidence and contrition—both prompt and commit a crime. But, in an act of revenge, the motive doubles the guilt.

As this boat was capable of taking in only five persons, at a time, they cast lots for the three who were to remain with Providence, and wait for better fortune. They parted probably with equal concern, on both sides, as those that went, were in as uncertain

a state,

a state, as those who staid. In two days after this event, Antonio happened to return back to the island, with a superior force, to carry off the remainder of our effects, and falling on the three sailors, slew them all.

When he came home to his village he published this account of his expedition, by which means the savage chief, before mentioned, came to the knowledge of it, and reported it to us. We could never learn, since, what became of the other five adventurers; but as chance and probability were so strongly against them, I fear much that of the sixteen persons, who set out on our unfortunate voyage, together, three only of us have survived.

About the end of the time I have mentioned, having felt my health so far restored, as to need nothing more than time and regimen to confirm it, I resolved to take leave of my happy
 asylum,

asylum, as an opportunity just then happened, which I was advised of beforehand, and which I had resolved to take the advantage of; for any other occasion might not have occurred, for several months again, as that port has but very little connection with the rest of the world.

The vessel I embarked in was to set sail the 21st of May, and was bound to St. Augustin *, where I thought I might have it in my power to provide myself with those things that were necessary to my present wants, better than in so devious and desolate a place as St. Mark's; where, besides, I could not continue well any longer, on account of the stinted provisions of the garrison.

* Another English settlement, on the east coast of Cape Florida.

Madame

Madame laCouture would have come on board along with me, very willingly, but that her son was not yet in a state of health to undertake the voyage, and she would not expose him to the hazard. Besides, she was a native of Louisiana, and had many relations in that country, which would otherwise have determined her to wait for a ship from that coast, which she had been informed was expected to arrive, about the latter end of the following month, by which time her son might be in a safer condition to sail along with her.

We took leave of each other with mutual regret; the having travelled and suffered together so long, had bound us in the tenderest ties of friendship; we felt as if part of ourselves was missing, when we were a moment out of each other's sight; but we had been long used to be governed

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by necessity, and this obliged us to take different routes ; but with this happy reflection, that our miseries were at an end, and that no further anxiety remained now in our minds, with regard to the fate of one another.

Our adieus were tender. There was no restraining the flow of tears that fell on both sides, while we were embracing, and promising never to forget or neglect each other. The young man, who was still confined to his bed, joined our farewells, and raising himself up, on his knees, cried out, "Great God, preserve him who
"restored my mother to me, and called
"me back to life again. Reward him,
"gracious Heaven, for such benefits,
"and so acquit me of obligations
"which I have no other way of re-
"paying but by gratitude and prayer."

This

This effusion of sensibility affected me beyond every other circumstance of our parting; I embraced him with transport, saying that I was already overpaid, by his sentiments of me; that, in effect, he owed me nothing; for if I had the good fortune to be any way serviceable to his mother, her assistance had been equally useful to me; and that, with regard to him, I had done but my duty as a man, and in redeeming him from the island, I could not think I had sufficiently expiated the barbarity of having forsaken him there.

Every time I reflect on the condition I found him in, I am shocked at myself, but rejoice again at the inward motion, that Divine impulse, which, superior to all reason relative to him, or prudence with regard to myself, prompted me to land at that instant, to view the body, and supply the rites

of sepulture. I tremble at the mere idea of his being now no more, if, when the foldier had reported his death, I had suffered them to have proceeded on their voyage.

At length I forced myself away from the mother and the son, and went to make my acknowledgements to Mr. Swettenham, and Mr. Wright; but they would not listen to any expression of obligations, and embraced me in such a manner as augmented them. They attended me to the ship, where I found they had already provided me with ample stores for the passage, and both of them joined in recommending me to the care and friendship of the captain, in the strongest terms imaginable, and exacted his promise that he would pay a particular attention to me, in every instance wherein he could possibly be any way serviceable to me; for

for all which they engaged to make him a proper return of kindness.

Mr. Swettenham then gave me a packet in charge, to be delivered to the governor of St. Augustin, as also a certificate of the situation and circumstances in which Mr. Wright had found Madame la Couture, her son, and me; which voucher I had desired from him soon after my arrival at St. Mark's, in order to support the authenticity of these almost incredible memoirs. These two generous friends then withdrew, and left me affected with the most lively sense of admiration and gratitude.

I shall not trouble you with the particulars of my voyage to St. Augustin, which lasted for twenty-four days, but shall only mention to you one extraordinary circumstance, that from the moment we set sail, 'till we arrived at port, the captain seemed

to have quite forgot his promises to my good hosts at St. Mark's ; for his manners and whole conduct were remarkably brutal towards me, which I had not, by any word or action of mine, in the least provoked him to ; so that it was beyond my power to guess at what it could be attributed to. This not only rendered my passage extremely disagreeable, but made it appear much longer also than it might otherwise have done.

There was one article, too, that was a thing of more consequence to me than all the rest ; and this was the want of fresh water, which cheap and common beverage he refused me, after the first three or four days of the voyage. The being deprived of a liquor so necessary to a convalescent, was very near giving me a relapse of my former weakness and disorders, and some very dangerous disease must have

have been the consequence of my remaining but a day or two longer under the barbarous dominion of this second Antonio. I landed at St. Augustin, the 13th of June; the ship anchored on the Bar, and the pilot's boat carried me on shore, where a corporal received, and conducted me before Mr. Grant, the governor of the garrison, to whom I delivered Mr. Swettenham's dispatches.

If I had obligations to the latter person, I have as many to acknowledge to this gentleman. He would not suffer me to go look for a lodging in the town, but ordered me an apartment in the citadel, and directed his surgeon to attend me constantly; which was absolutely necessary to my recovery, as some ulcers had broke out in my neck, for want of fresh water to have cooled and diluted my blood, for so long a time; and my body began to swell a-

gain. But all these symptoms were soon conquered, by the kindness and care that was bestowed upon me; and on the 7th of July I found myself perfectly able to walk abroad to see the town.

It was to the hospitality and humanity of this most excellent person, that I owe the further preservation of a life which Mr. Wright and Mr. Swettenham had before redeemed. I can never reflect without the most grateful sensibility, on the goodness and charity that these three generous Englishmen have exerted towards me, and which a stranger and a foreigner might not have reason to expect to meet with every where. But I was in distress, which was a sufficient title to their benevolence. They are worthy sons of a free and a gallant nation; and it must ever be a vain attempt in any of their rival powers, to think of combating

bating their fleets or armies, till they shall have first raised themselves to a level with their liberty and virtue.

I staid with Mr. Grant till the 21st of July, when I departed for New York. I can never forget the manner in which this benevolent man completed his kindness to me. He sent for the captain of the ship to come to him; and, after giving me into his charge, with the warmest recommendations of friendship, paid him before-hand, for my passage, and ordered every accommodation aboard, that might be necessary either for my use, ease, or convenience; to which he added a portmanteau, filled with cloaths and linen, which were a great comfort and refreshment to me.

When I attempted to make my acknowledgments for his bounties, "I must beg leave to interrupt you (said he) upon this subject; you have deserved

"deserved every thing I did for you,
 "because you needed it; and I have
 "done nothing more in your in-
 "stance, than I should have a right
 "to expect myself, in the same
 "circumstances. But my considera-
 "tion for your distress (continued he),
 "ought to extend beyond the immedi-
 "ate exigencies of your situation. You
 "certainly have no money about you,
 "and may have occasion for some small
 "sum before you can procure assistance
 "elsewhere; ten guineas may be ser-
 "viceable to you in this interval; and
 "I insist on your accepting them from
 "me: I hope that you will not have oc-
 "casion for more, before you may be
 "able to hear from your friends in
 "Europe."

The manner in which this present
 was offered, with the generosity that
 prevented my making a request, which
 my necessity must have obliged me to
 have done in such circumstances, had

a powerful effect on me. I endeavoured to stammer out my acknowledgements, but my sentiment was too strong for me. Lively emotions are but ill expressed by words. Mr. Grant embraced me; " 'Tis a trifle not worth mentioning (said he); but you have too much sensibility. You'll distress me if you say any thing more about it. Do like me: forget it immediately, as I have myself already done."

I was forced to keep the silence imposed on me; but my heart and eyes were eloquent. A messenger from the ship came just then to summon me away, and I embraced and quitted my benefactor with the utmost tenderness and regret.

After fourteen day's sail, with a captain the very reverse of the former, and who, from the apparent goodness of his own nature, would have treated me as kindly as he did, though I had not been recommended to him by the governor,

governor, I arrived at New York, on the 3d of August.

I made myself known to some French people settled in that city, and who, touched with my misfortunes, tendered me every kind of assistance in their power. They introduced me to Monsieur Dupeytre, one of the richest merchants in the place, who generously offered to give me employment in my profession.

But, upon hearing all the particulars of my story, "It would not be prudent in you (said he) to think of entering upon an occupation, so fatiguing and hazardous as yours, for some time yet: long quiet and repose must be necessary to your health, after the severe labours and disasters you have so lately undergone; and, in order to give this nursing its full effect, it will be necessary, besides the help of medicine, to relieve your mind

"mind from all uneasiness, both with
 "regard to the present, and the future.
 "This charge I shall take upon me: from
 "this moment you are to consider your-
 "self as my guest, where you are extreme-
 "ly welcome to both bed and board.
 "When I find you are sufficiently reco-
 "vered to engage in your occupation
 "again, I shall not oppose it, but help
 "you forward myself, by supplying
 "you with commissions, for my corres-
 "pondents in Europe. This business, I
 "hope, is settled now to your satisfac-
 "tion," said he, taking me by the hand,
 and, without waiting for an answer,
 called his servants before me, and gave
 them all necessary directions for my
 reception and accommodation.

I shall not attempt to describe, be-
 cause I have not a power of speech
 equal to the task, the strong senti-
 ments of gratitude with which such
 uncommon kindness and humanity
 affected

affected me. From the moment I was redeemed from the horrid desert, when I was within a few minutes of my dissolution, I met with none, excepting one, but persons of liberal minds, humane hearts, and generous souls. Does the world abound with such? I reflect on my misfortunes, now, as blessings, since they have been the means of purchasing me the acquaintance and friendship of so many excellent persons.

While I passed my days in perfect comfort and tranquility, under the roof of the hospitable Monsieur Dupeytre, I wrote to my family to acquaint them with my survival, after the variety of incredible difficulties and miseries I had sustained, during the space of eighty-one days: it was this letter that you had seen, and which being only a summary account of my misfortunes, did not sufficiently satisfy your friendly and anxious curiosity about me. I

sent my letters by a vessel that was going to London, from whence they might be put into the post-office, for France; but, not knowing how long I should remain there, I desired no answers till I could ascertain my future destination, and be sure of my address.

Monsieur Dupeytre kept me with him till the February following, and then gave me charge of a cargo for Nantes. I took leave of him on the 6th of that month, and arrived safely at port here on the 27th. My commission was addressed to Monsieur Walch, whom I found as sensible to the impressions of my sufferings as his correspondent had been.

From hence I wrote again to my friends, from whom I have received answers; and, among them, your letter, pressing me to send you a minute and circumstantial detail of my Adventures, during

during that extraordinary period. I could refuse nothing to your friendship, and have accordingly employed what leisure my avocations would permit, to recite in this narrative, the whole series of facts, in their regular succession of events.

I doubt not but that this sad relation will affect you much, and make you often tremble at the difficulties and miseries of your friend. May the dispatch with which I have acquitted myself of your request, convince you more and more of the attachment I have vowed to you, for life, and challenge an equal return of affection on your part, also.

Adieu,

PIERRE VIAUD.

THE
CERTIFICATE,

GIVEN BY

Mr. SWETTENHAM to Monsieur VIAUD.

I The undernamed George Swetten-
ham, lieutenant of the ninth re-
giment of foot, in the service of his Bri-
tannic Majesty, and commander of the
fort St. Mark, in the Apalachian moun-
tains, do hereby certify, that on the in-
formation of a savage, who had reported
his having met with a dead body, on a
strand about forty miles from hence;
and, having strong reasons to think a ship
had been wrecked on that coast, which
I feared was one that I had expected,
for some time before, and had receiv-
ed no account of, I detached four sol-
T diers,

diers, with my interpreter, under the command of Mr. Wright, ensign in the same corps, to visit that coast, and succour all those that he might meet with in any distress.

Mr. Wright, on his return, presented the bearer, Le Sieur Viaud, and a woman of the same nation, to me, whom he had found on a desert coast, in the most deplorable situation, almost famished with hunger, having nothing to subsist on but a few oysters, and some fragments of a negro, that they had been reduced to the necessity of slaying for food.

Le Sieur Viaud informs me, that he is a sea-captain, and an officer in the Blues, in the service of the French King ; that a savage he had met with, and who undertook to conduct him to St. Mark, had robbed him of what effects he happened

pened to have saved from a shipwreck ; and fled away, during the night, in his canoe, leaving him and some other companions on a desert island.

Mr. Wright, also, presented to me a young man, son to the woman above-mentioned, whom he had found in another desert isle, in a more desperate condition than the former persons, as it was impossible he could have existed an hour longer, without his assistance, as he had neither food, nor sense or motion left, when he found him.

The shocking situation they were all three in, upon his first meeting with them, their extreme weakness, and some particulars I have since been informed of, from some savages, sufficiently prove that the story told me by Le Sieur Viaud, of his having been pillaged and betrayed, in the manner aforesaid, is true.

On

On the credit of which, I give this certificate to the said Sieur Viaud, who means to set out for St. Augustine, by the first opportunity, and to go from thence into some of the French colonies,

Fort St. Mark, May 12,

1766.

GEORGE SWETTENHAM.

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